00109634

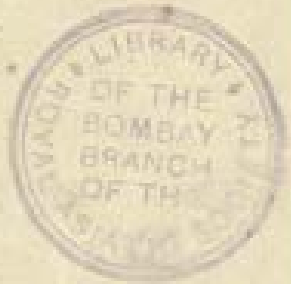
212.5
Alc/Ady
109634

THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BOMBAY
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY-1.

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Observer Research Foundation
on 25 April 2019

THE HOME OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

T B - f - 14.

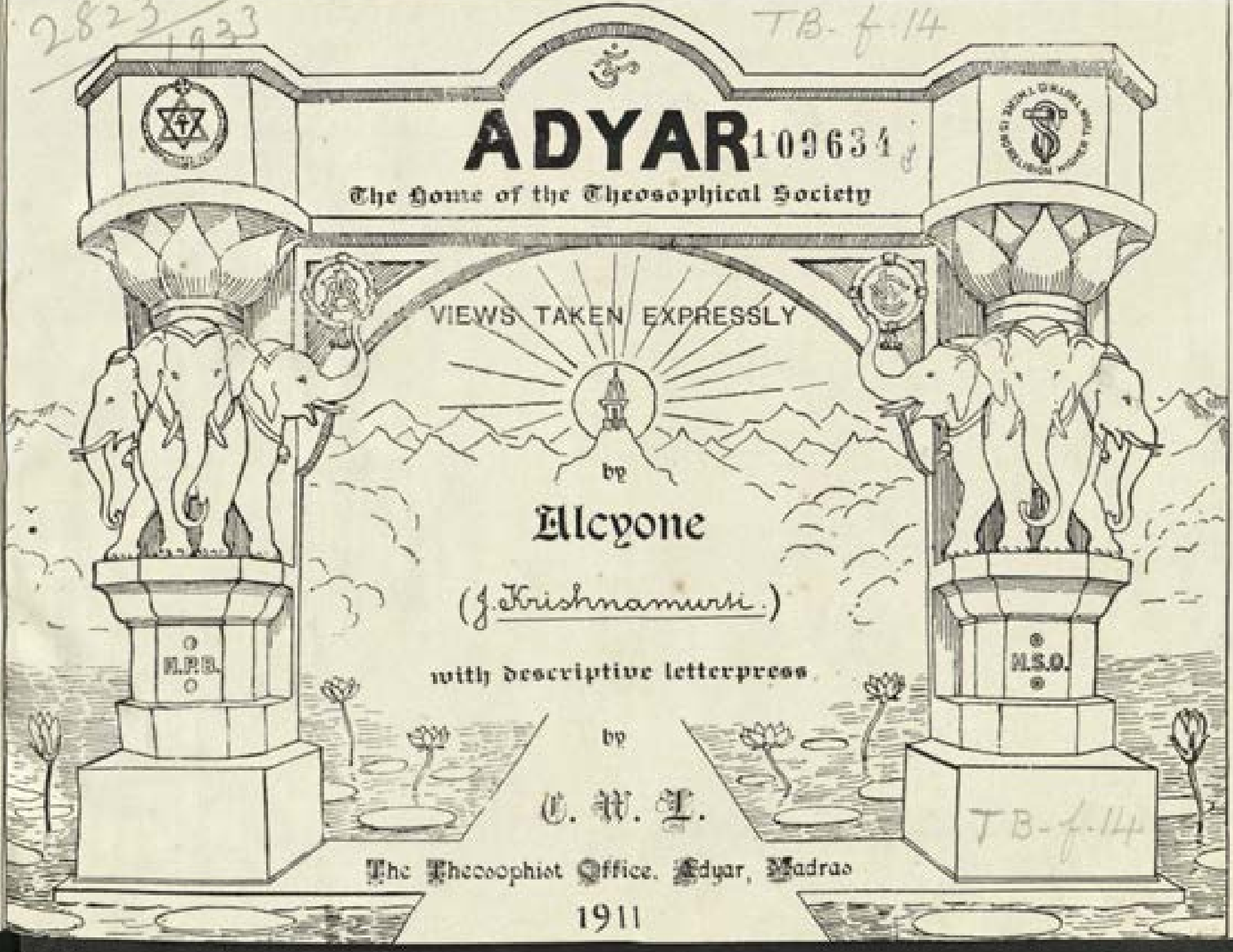


2823/1923
TB-f-14

ADYAR

109634

The Home of the Theosophical Society



by

Alcyone

(J. Krishnamurti.)

with descriptive letterpress

by

C. W. L.

The Theosophist Office, Adyar, Madras

1911

TB-f-14

00109634

CONTENTS

Preface

The Theosophical Headquarters at Adyar

Photographs and Descriptions

1. The Headquarters from the Bridge
2. The First Trilithon
3. The Vasanta Press
4. The Arundale House
5. The Second Trilithon
6. The Headquarters Building from the North
7. The Headquarters from the North-east
8. The President's Veranda
9. The Russak House
10. The Headquarters from the East
11. The South Wall of the Library
12. The Convention Hall
13. The Statues
14. Adyar Library—First Room
15. Adyar Library—Second Room
16. On the Roof
17. The Bank of the River
18. The Opposite Shore
19. The Bridge
20. The Front Garden
21. The Studio
22. Looking South-east from the Roof
23. The Third Trilithon
24. The Tennis Court
25. The Octagon Room
26. From the Octagon looking East
27. In Memory of the Colonel
28. The Palm Grove
29. Blavatsky Gardens
30. The Banyan Tree
31. The Trunk of the Banyan
32. The Hindu Restaurant
33. The Quadrangle
34. The Chambers from the Park
35. The Chambers from the River
36. The Ruin
37. Olcott Gardens
38. The Masonic Temple
39. The Power House
40. Besant Gardens
41. Damodar Gardens
42. A Fisherman
43. Madame Blavatsky
44. Colonel Olcott
45. Mrs. Besant
46. Map of the Estate
47. Plan of Headquarters Building—Ground Floor
48. Plan of Headquarters Building—First Floor

PREFACE

My brother Krishnamurti (who is known to all Theosophical students as Aleyone, the hero of the wonderful series of lives which has recently appeared in *The Theosophist*, and the writer of the still more wonderful book *At the Feet of the Master*) has conceived the idea of putting before the Theosophical Society a series of views of the buildings which constitute the Headquarters, so that the members of the Society who have not the privilege of being here in the flesh may nevertheless know something at least of the outer appearance of its real home, the true centre of its activities. To achieve this he has spent many hours and much labour in preparing a series of photographs, tramping all over the estate to find the best points of view, patiently taking some of the buildings over and over again in different lights and with varying exposures. The result is this book of views. At his request a few friends are providing the funds necessary for its publication, but neither he nor they will accept any part of the profits, if any should accrue; those are to go entirely to *The Theosophist* Office, to assist in the issuing of other books and the promotion of the Theosophical cause by the dissemination of its literature. He desires to thank Messrs. Wiele and Klein, who made the blocks from his photographs, and the Manager of the Vasanta Press, who printed the views, for their hearty and kindly co-operation with him in his endeavour to obtain the best results possible under the circumstances.

As Aleyone resides here among us, it would seem appropriate that he himself should write the description of the buildings which he has photographed for us. That he is well able to do this his

descriptive articles in *The Lotus Journal* show, but he has asked me to undertake it, because of the fact that I first came to Adyar twenty-seven years ago, and have visited it at various periods since then, and so can describe from my own knowledge the older aspect of the place, and the changes which have come over it. I comply gladly with his request, for I think his idea a happy one, and the work laudable and useful; so I will commence with a brief history of the Headquarters house and estate.

THE THEOSOPHICAL HEADQUARTERS AT ADYAR

The Theosophical Society was founded at New York on November 17th, 1875. Three years later its Founders decided to transfer its Headquarters to India, and they landed at Bombay on February 16th, 1879. They established themselves there temporarily, but it soon became evident that henceforth India would be the centre of their activities; and so, during the lecturing tours which occupied so much of the next few years, Colonel Olcott was always carefully observing places, people and climates with a view to select the best place for a permanent Headquarters for the Society. He finally decided to buy a small property which was then called Huddlestone's Gardens, on the southern bank of the Adyar River, in the suburbs of the city of Madras.

This property comprised about twenty-seven acres, and there was upon it a well-built house of the ordinary Anglo-Indian type, flanked by two small garden pavilions of two rooms each, and the usual stables and out-buildings—supplemented, however, by a swimming-bath. All this was offered for the small price of £600—the reason being that the railway to the Nilgiri summer resort of Ootacamund had just been opened, and consequently Madras officials found themselves compelled to live for six months of the year up there, and so no longer needed the suburban houses in which they had been accustomed to spend the warmer months. Seeing the place to be suitable and well within his means, Colonel Olcott decided upon taking it; and from that comparatively small beginning grew the magnificent Headquarters of the present day.

The Founders arrived at their new home on December 19th, 1882, and the next few months were spent in settling down and making a few necessary repairs and alterations. We have unfortunately no good photographs of the house as it was then. There exists a small print, cut out of some old maga-

zine, which gives a partial view, and some of the early Convention photographs show us little bits of the building. It was, however, but little altered when I first saw it in the year 1884. At that time it possessed on the ground floor a square central hall, on each side of which were two comfortable rooms. At the back of the hall was a sort of ante-room, and then a large room evidently intended to be the main drawing-room, which ran almost the whole length of the house and opened out on to a broad terrace overlooking the Adyar River. When I arrived, that room was being used as the office for the Recording Secretary of the Society and the Manager of *The Theosophist*, and we kept there our little store of books for sale, the nucleus out of which has grown the extensive business of *The Theosophist* Office of to-day.

As is usual in India, the whole of the house was covered by a flat cemented roof. Upon this roof, when the house came into possession of the Society, there was one large room (now divided into two bed-rooms), and on the way down the stairs a very small one in which Damodar lived—a sort of eyrie with a window looking west towards the great bridge. Madame Blavatsky at first occupied the large room upon the roof, but was not satisfied with it, so in the course of 1884 another room was erected for her at the north-east corner of the roof; and it was in that that she took up her residence when she returned to India towards the close of that year. Colonel Olcott at that time lived in one of the garden pavilions—that on the eastern side of the central building; but after Madame Blavatsky's final departure for Europe, by her wish he moved up into her new room at the corner of the roof, and that has ever since been specially dedicated to the President of the Society. In addition to Madame Blavatsky's new room on the roof, another change was made in 1884. A new room was built at the head of the staircase, at the western end of the large room. This was the celebrated 'shrine-room' of those early days, upon the wall of which was hung the little cupboard in which letters from the Masters were sometimes found—the very cupboard about which so much was said in the scandalously unfair report of the Society for Psychical Research.

The alterations which have since been made in the Headquarters building are of so radical a character that it is practically impossible for the visitor at the present time to reconstruct in his mind the house as it used to be; and even those of us who knew it in those older days find it difficult to trace the old landmarks.

In 1885 Colonel Olcott made his first great alteration, for the purpose of providing a permanent hall in which the meetings of the Convention could be held. The Convention of 1884 (the first which I had the honour to attend) assembled in a huge temporary hall with walls and roof of palm-leaves, and the many inconveniences attached to this (as well as the expense of it) had determined the Committee of the Society to construct a more durable erection. As usual in the Theosophical Society, the great difficulty that confronted us was the everlasting financial problem. To build a hall at all adequate for our purposes would have cost at least £1,000; and nothing like that sum was forthcoming. But the Colonel's ingenuity was equal to the occasion; he devised a plan by which we obtained a fine and convenient hall quite sufficient for our needs for about one-sixth of that estimate. Along the front of the house—in front of the square hall previously described and of the rooms on each side of it—ran the usual wide Indian veranda, perhaps a hundred feet long and about fourteen in width. In the centre of that projected a *porte-cochère* under which ran the drive leading up to the house. The floor of this veranda was some feet above the level of the drive, and Colonel Olcott carried out that raised floor to the edge of the portico, and then extended it along in both directions until he had doubled the width of his veranda. He raised the roof about six feet, built a wall on the other side of his extended veranda, and then made a new porch and deflected the carriage drive to meet it. In this way he provided us with a hall shaped like the letter T—the double-width veranda forming the cross-piece, and the original square hall, with the ante-room thrown into it, forming the central stroke. The platform for speakers was placed in the centre of the long arm, facing into the old square hall, so that the speakers had that hall in front of them and the new extension on each side of them. This hall has ever since been used for all our public meetings. It is supposed to seat 1,500 people comfortably, but on several occasions at the last Convention 2,300 were squeezed into it; and as even then many people had to be turned away, we finally gave up the endeavour to accommodate the crowd indoors, and held the concluding public meeting under the branches of the big banyan-tree.

Almost immediately after the erection of the hall, the Colonel commenced the building of the

Adyar Library, as a continuation of the eastern end of his new lecture-hall. Two large and lofty rooms were constructed, the inner one being at first reserved as a Shrine-room in which were placed, behind curtains of cloth of gold, the two splendid portraits of the Masters which had been painted by Mr. Schmiechen under Madame Blavatsky's directions. This new library was opened with great ceremony at the Convention of 1886. The occasion was celebrated with truly Theosophical catholicity; to quote Colonel Olcott's account of the proceedings: "A pandit from Mysore invoked the favour of Ganapathi, the god of occult research, and of Sarasvati, the Indian Pallas Athene or Minerva, patroness of learning; some boys from one of our Sanskrit Schools chanted benedictory verses in the classical language of the Vedas; two Parsi Mobeds offered a prayer to Ahûra Mazda, and lit the fire of sandalwood in a silver brazier; the saintly Medankara and a colleague intoned the *Jayamangalam* in Pâli; and a Muslim Maulvi from Hyderabad with strong clear voice recited a prayer from the Koran. Then followed my official discourse."

It was subsequent to this time that the great sculptured trilithons which adorn the grounds were erected. These massive stones were brought from a ruined temple in Southern India, and are supposed to be over two thousand years old.

It was not until 1904 that Colonel Olcott built the suite of rooms above the library. This latter had by that time so much increased that it was necessary to take for it both the large rooms on the ground-floor; and even then it overflowed into that other large room facing the river, which is now employed as a reading-room. The three rooms which were built above the library were for some time devoted entirely to the use of the Esoteric Section. The central and smallest room of the three is still the Shrine-room, in which are kept the portraits of our Masters. The room to the west of this, divided from it only by beautiful carved sliding doors, is used for the meetings of the E. S. The room to the east of the Shrine-room was for some time the office of the E. S.; but as that office has now been moved into another building, I have the honour of occupying that room myself. I find it one of the pleasantest in the whole building. About this time also the Colonel much improved the Presidential rooms,

filling up the elbow of the L with a square room looking out towards the sea. One of the latest additions made by our present President has been to build round this a fine broad balcony. At some time during this intervening period the large room on the roof was divided into two, and the section of roof to the north of it, between it and the river, was roofed over and made into a drawing-room, in which the evening meetings of the students are held in wet weather. The latest addition to the actual Headquarters building is the pretty little square house of Mrs. Russak, for which the Colonel himself marked out the site.

The changes which Mrs. Besant has introduced into the Adyar estate are enormous. She has made but little alteration in the Headquarters building itself, but she has added considerably to both the garden pavilions and has practically rebuilt almost all the other little houses in the gardens, in which the various Indian workers live. In her reign have been added to the estate no less than six valuable pieces of property—Blavatsky Gardens, Olcott Gardens, Besant Gardens, Besant Grove, Alsace Grove, and Damodar Gardens, as well as the small piece of land upon which the Vasanta Press stands. These various additions will be described more in detail when we come to the views which illustrate them; but we may summarise here by saying that the Society's estate has increased from the original 27 acres to 263, and has a river frontage of just over a mile extending from the Elphinstone Bridge to the Bay of Bengal, and a sea frontage of two-fifths of a mile. Some of this newly acquired land is fertile, and the rest can be made so by care and attention, so that there is no doubt that, as the years roll on, it will all be brought gradually under cultivation, and will yield a considerable revenue to the Society. As a step towards this desirable result, a power-house has just been built, and some engines are in course of erection, which will presently do all the work of pumping for irrigation and of running the motors for the Vasanta Press, as well as supplying us with electric light and telephonic communication. Some other buildings have recently been erected by private generosity—the Masonic Temple, a Hindu Restaurant, and a magnificent new edifice in which Theosophical students are to be housed. All these will be pictured in due course, and details about them will be given, including also the terms upon which visitors are admitted.

The views given in this book will disclose the fact that there are many lovely little bits of scenery on the Adyar estate; but no photograph can convey any idea of the splendid colour of the tropics, of the glories amidst which the sun rises out of the turquoise of the Bay of Bengal, or the gorgeous display in which he sets behind the Elphinstone Bridge. The great drawback of the scenery on almost the whole of this Coromandel Coast is its absolute flatness, and Adyar is no exception to that rule. Our nearest hill is six miles away, and anywhere else (except perhaps in Holland) it would be a mound, for it is about two hundred feet high; but we dignify it with the title of St. Thomas' Mount, and are very proud of it. Flat though the country be, there are beautiful drives in several directions, and in the Beach Road we have one of the finest marine parades in the world, running for five miles alongside the waters of the bay.

The climate of Adyar has none of the extremes of Northern India. Sometimes when our President is in Benares she writes us moving letters describing her sensations after the thermometer has been at 118° Fahrenheit for three weeks; and we, revelling in the strong sea-breeze, rejoice that karma has cast our lot in the southern part of this mighty peninsula. We are, as a matter of fact, exceptionally favourably situated, for on many occasions in the summer we have found that our temperature out here at Adyar is ten or twelve degrees lower than it is in the centre of Madras. This is partly due to the proximity of the sea, and partly to the tidal river which is so prominent a feature in our landscape. Still, it must be admitted that the climate is what most people would call distinctly a hot one.

The rainy season lasts for two months, from the middle of October to the middle of December; during the rest of the year there is usually no rain at all, except sometimes a few showers in April. All through the winter months the thermometer never rises above 80°, and it is quite chilly in the early morning. The change of the monsoon (the prevailing wind) takes place at the end of April or the beginning of May, and to my mind that is the least pleasant part of the year, as for about a fortnight we have hot close weather—a temperature of perhaps 90°, without any wind. When the monsoon has definitely changed, a high average temperature continues through June, July

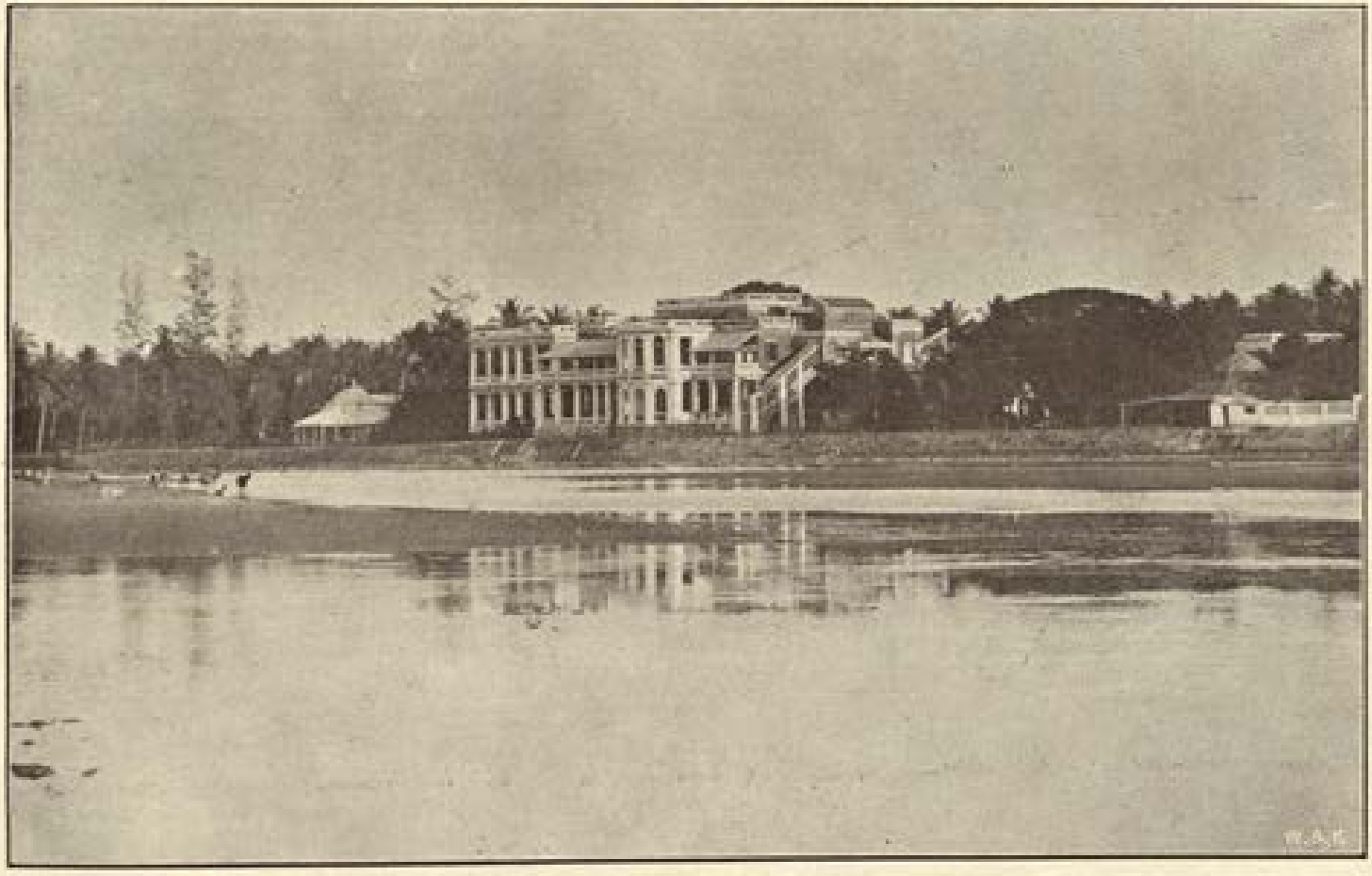
and August, but is accompanied by so strong a breeze that its effects are greatly modified. The climate varies somewhat in different years; last year was said to be an exceptionally hot one, and I once saw my thermometer at 98°; indeed I understand that one of our lady residents somehow coaxed hers up to 101°, but this is only hearsay evidence! As a general rule our summer temperature never goes above 93°, and is often considerably below that. Anyone who finds that amount of heat trying has always the possibility of spending a few weeks in the Nilgiri Hills, where the temperature is that of England. This is only 350 miles away, and is easily and cheaply reached. The Government of Madras moves up to Ootacamund for the summer months, just as the Viceroy's Government goes to Simla, and I am told that the views up there are splendid, and the climate most bracing. Personally I do not like to be braced, and I prefer to spend the whole year here at Adyar; but I mention the Nilgiris for those who desire to shiver occasionally. The description which Madame Blavatsky gives of them in her series of articles on the *Mysterious Tribes* is most fascinating; and for the sake of that I suppose that I must go and see them some day. But those of us who live here at Adyar find its attractions ever growing upon us, and it becomes increasingly difficult for us to tear ourselves away from "The Home of the Theosophical Society."

C. W. Leadbeater

LIBRA... OF TH...

1. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE BRIDGE

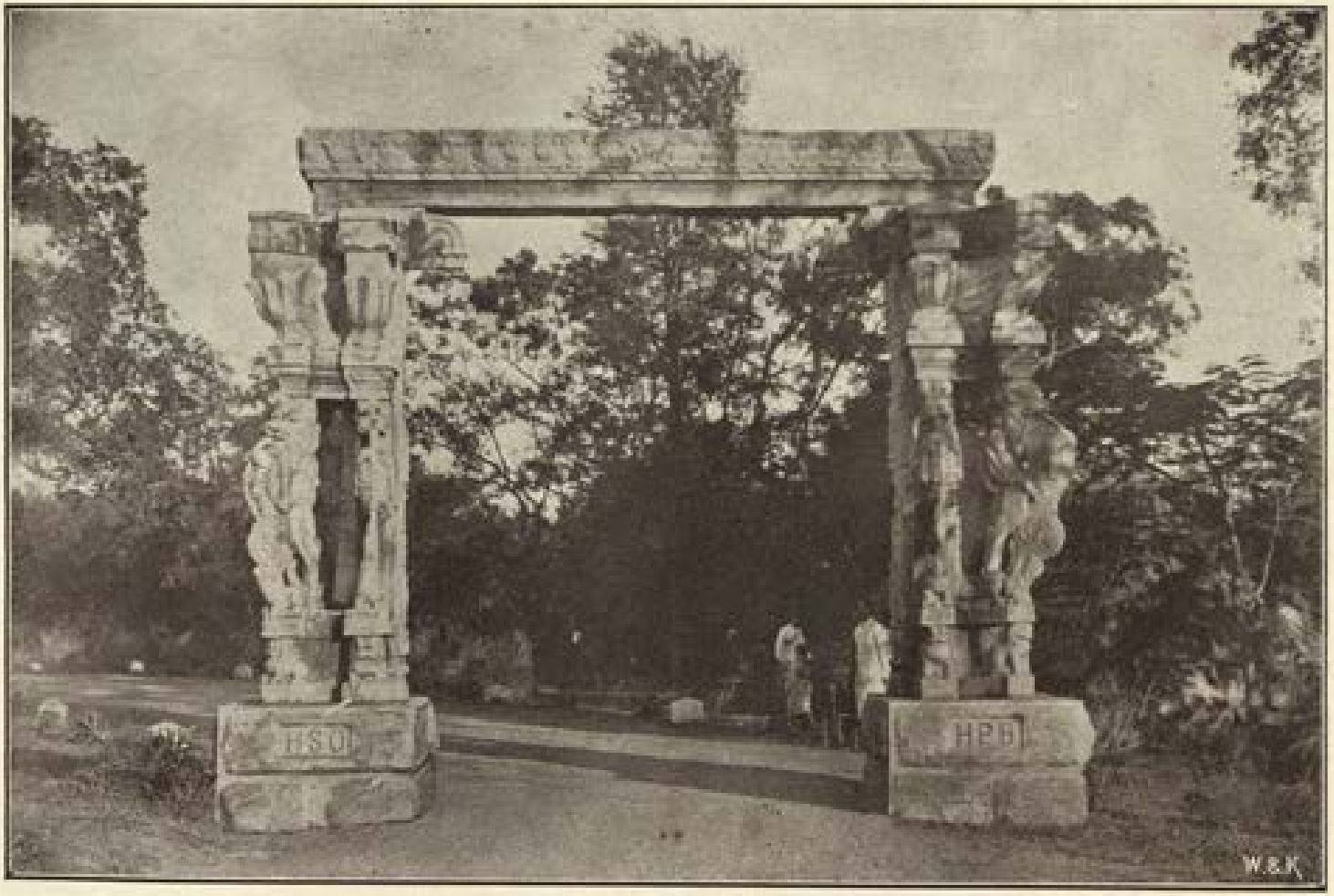
The visitor who arrives at Madras by sea, or by railway from the north, is deposited in the heart of the city, and has a drive of some seven miles before he can reach the Theosophical Headquarters. If he arrives from the south, he is landed at a station called Egmore, which is perhaps a mile nearer. In any case he must turn his face southward, and follow a road running parallel to the coast. We have the choice of various routes into the city. That which is perhaps the most direct runs for much of the distance alongside a tramway-line and through the more crowded parts of the town, so that we usually avoid it. Another way, much pleasanter and only a little longer, is to turn down along the opposite bank of the river, pass through the old Catholic village of San Thomé and follow the magnificent Beach Road, which runs along the shore of the Bay of Bengal as far as the harbour and beyond. From this road one can turn inland into the town at any point that may be desired. There is also a third route, much longer but pleasant and shady, which runs away inland and curves back into the city from another direction. But by whichever of those routes the new arrival may approach Adyar, he will find that they all converge upon the entrance to the great Elphinstone Bridge, which crosses the Adyar River just above the Headquarters estate. The name Adyar is in its origin that of the river, and has only comparatively recently come to mean the district extending along the banks of the river. The first glimpse which the new-comer gets of the Headquarters will therefore be as he enters upon this bridge, and the view given on the following page shows the aspect which it will present to him. If the tide be high he will see the building across nearly half a mile of water, but if it be low, as it was when this photograph was taken, the surface of the shallow stream will be diversified by various sand-banks. The island, one end of which appears at the left of our illustration, is always visible. The large but somewhat irregular block of the central building will be seen standing out white against a background of trees; on each side of it is a garden pavilion, and these are recognisable by their low domes. Mr. G. S. Arundale's new cottage is visible somewhat nearer to the bridge, but it does not come into this photograph.



1. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE BRIDGE.

2. THE FIRST TRILITHON

When the traveller has crossed the bridge on his way hither from Madras, he has passed out of the municipal limits of the city. The land now on his left is Theosophical property, and in about a hundred yards he comes to the turning by which the carriage-drive enters. He passes first through a modest iron gate, upon one of the pillars of which appear the words "The Theosophical Society," and on the other "The Adyar Library." The drive runs for a few yards along an embankment, as the land on each side is low. Then it passes through the splendid sculptured trilithon represented in our photograph. Four of these characteristic objects adorn the grounds of the Society. Colonel Olcott obtained them from the ruins of the temple of Old Chandragiri in Southern India, where these beautiful examples of ancient work had been lying for centuries neglected and overthrown. They are supposed to be over two thousand years old, but little definite information is to be had with regard to them. Clearly it was no mean art which could carve out of a single stone one of these mighty pillars, and even to place the enormously heavy cross-piece upon the pillars must have required a considerable amount of skill. The style of sculpture is not unlike that which is to be seen in the great temple at Madura. We have the same conventionalised idea of the rearing horse in the front of the columns, and the same curiously-curved downward projections at the top. It will be noticed that the initials of the Founders of the Society have been carved upon the pediments, and on the under side of the great horizontal stone is chiselled the seal of the Society, with the date 1875 on one side of it and 1905 on the other.



2. THE FIRST TRILITHON.

3. THE VASANTA PRESS

After passing under the great trilithon, the first building which the visitor sees is that of the Vasanta Press, lying a little way from the road on his right. It is not, strictly speaking, within the Theosophical estate at all, for a public road passes close in front of it; but the land on which it stands has been taken by the Society upon a twenty-one years' lease, and I believe that negotiations are on foot for its purchase. As may be seen, it is a fine building for its purpose, and pleasantly situated. The lower floor is occupied by the presses and by the stitching and binding department, while the upper floor is given up to the compositors. The most interesting feature about the press is that it is manned almost entirely by little Tamil boys of from twelve to fourteen years of age, most of whom do not know a word of English. They set up the type, letter by letter, without understanding it in the least, and when one considers the handwriting of some of our contributors, it is indeed a marvel that *The Theosophist* turns out so well. All these little boys are bright and eager about their work, and a happier and more important set of children would be hard to find. Now and then, when there happens to be a little slackening in the work (which is not often) the Superintendent turns them all out to play for an hour, and they spread themselves over the country-side in high glee. The stitchers also are about the same age, and it is a fine sight to see them all squatting on the floor and working away as if their lives depended upon it, when the great monthly rush comes, and *The Theosophist* has to be got out to catch the European mail. On the upper floor is the office of the Superintendent, Mr. Siṭārām Shāstri, who may be seen standing in the balcony. He has devoted himself to the business of the press with unflagging assiduity, and has succeeded in bringing its work to a high condition of perfection, which is a source of marvel to those who know with what difficulties he has had to contend. In front of the door may be seen suspended the gong upon which the hours are struck by a watchman all through the day and night, and on the extreme left of our illustration, among the bushes, is the upper part of a drinking fountain, erected by our President to supply pure water to the villagers of Urur.

3. THE VASANTA PRESS.

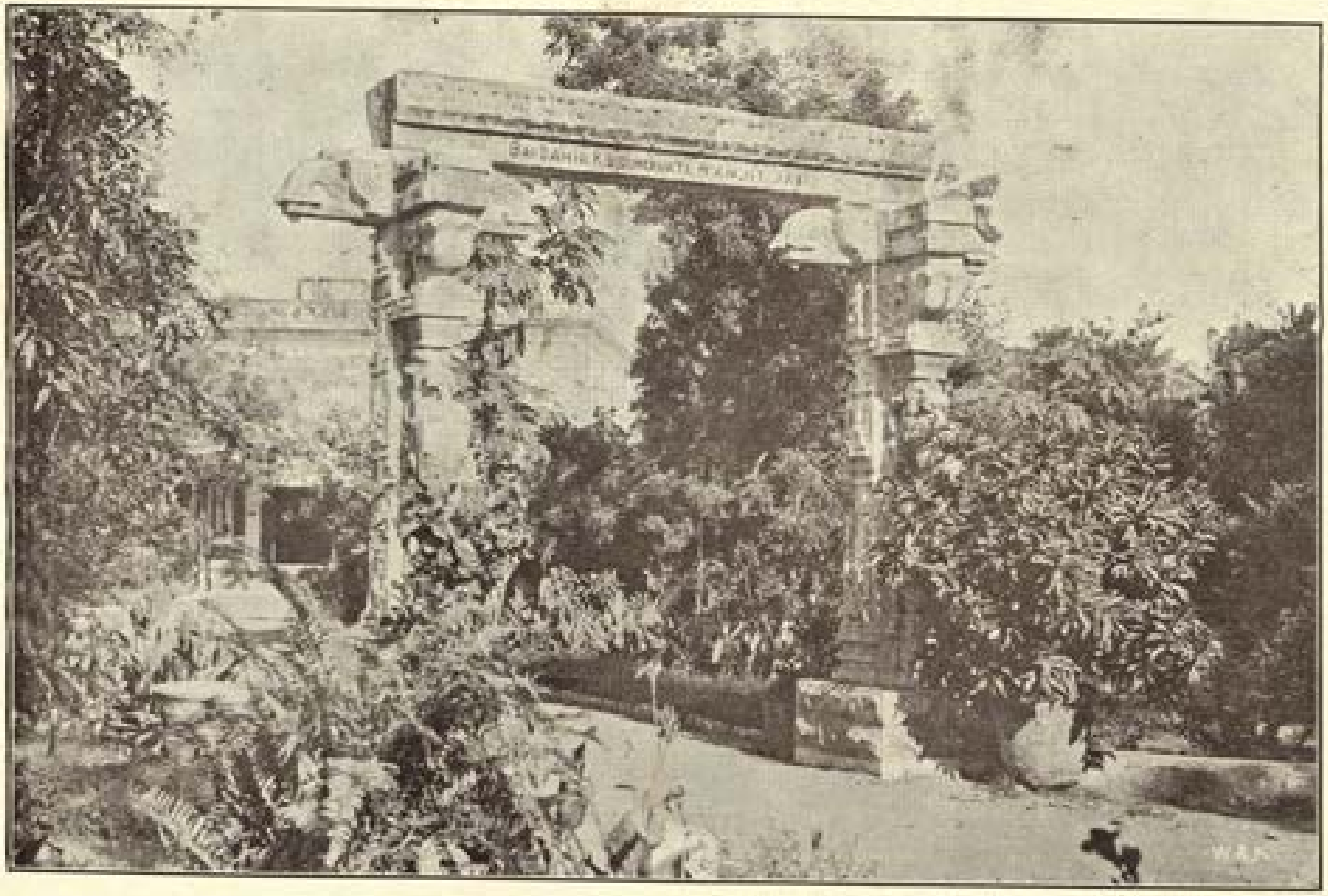
4. THE ARUNDALE HOUSE

One of the rules that has been made by the President for the regulation of this Theosophical estate is that with her permission members may erect for themselves private houses which they can occupy whenever they visit the Headquarters, on the understanding that when they are not here, the houses shall be at the President's disposal, and that when the owners pass away they shall become the property of the Theosophical Society. The next building which the visitor will encounter on his way from the gate to the Headquarters is a house of this particular kind—the residence of Mr. G. S. Arundale, the much-beloved Honorary Principal of the Central Hindu College at Benares. It stands a little way back from the road on the left, overlooking the broad Adyar River. This pretty cottage is one of the examples of a new method of construction, which is being tried to a considerable extent upon the Adyar estate. It is built of what is called reinforced concrete. This method of building has been adopted for the great suite of chambers erected half-a-mile away lower down the river, and we shall refer to it more in detail when we come to describe that. This little house is one of the latest additions, and was finished only just in time for Mr. Arundale and his aunt to occupy it during the Convention of 1910, at which he delivered so admirable a series of lectures upon "The Growth of National Consciousness in the Light of Theosophy." It is surrounded by the wide verandas which are always a feature of Indian dwellings. The central part on each floor is divided into two rooms, and in the square towers which are nearest to the road are bath and store rooms.

4. THE ARUNDALE HOUSE.

5. THE SECOND TRILITHON

After passing the Arundale house, we next see on our left the first of the garden pavilions, which is not, however, visible in this photograph. The two garden pavilions were originally identical, each consisting of a small octagonal room with a broad veranda round it, and another oblong room, unconnected with the first, but projecting diagonally from it at an angle with the bank of the river. When viewed from the river they looked exactly like two gigantic sun-helmets. Both have been considerably modified now, though in quite different ways. This western pavilion was used for many years as *The Theosophist* Office, and it was not until the stock absolutely overflowed its capacity that a movement was made last year to its present position. The western pavilion is now called the guest-house, and a little court-yard has been added to it to make it suitable for the accommodation of Indian ladies, some of whom are compelled by fashion to keep themselves concealed from human eye. Just in front of this pavilion is the second trilithon, which appears in the following illustration. It is of the same character as the first, but has only one rearing horse on the front of each pillar instead of two. It was erected at the expense of, and in commemoration of, Prince Harisinghji Rupsinghji of Kathiawar and his family. It bears his name on the side facing the Headquarters, and that of his wife on the side towards the entrance gate; in each case is added the suffix "Jai," which means "victory to," and corresponds to our phrase "long live" in such an expression as "Long live the King." Through the arch is seen the central building of the Headquarters. The part in view is the western end, and the doorway which is visible leads into the end of the cross-piece of the T of the Convention Hall. The drive bends round to the right and continues along the front of the house, leaving it on our left hand.



5. THE SECOND TRILITHON.

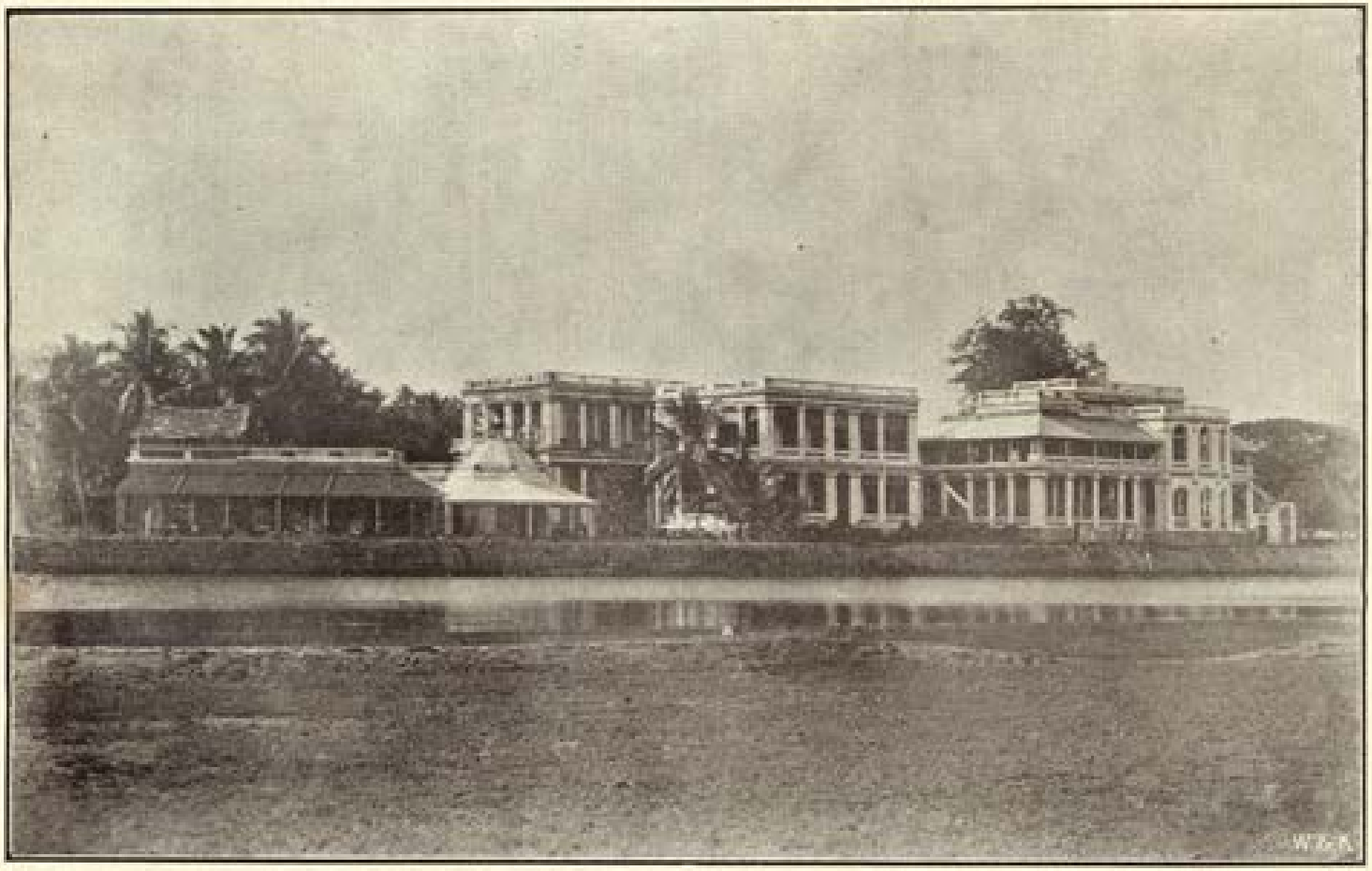
6. THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FROM THE NORTH

Our visitor has now arrived at the front door of the central building; but before we let him enter the hall, I think it will be well to try to give the reader a general plan of this somewhat complicated erection. Our traveller in his carriage is on the landward or southern side of the house; to obtain a general idea of it we must transfer ourselves in fancy to the northern or river front, and look at the pile once more as we saw it from the bridge, but this time much nearer at hand. In order to make this part of the subject clear, Aleyone has taken two photographs, both from the island which lies in the river just in front of the house, and I should recommend the reader to examine along with these the ground-plan of the edifice which is given at the end of this book. Let us commence at the left of our photograph—the eastern end of the structure. We have in the background the long library building, with Mrs. Russak's square little house standing in front of it on the river bank. At the eastern end of the library, on our extreme left, there is on the ground floor a small projection, which is the private study of Dr. Schrader, the Director of the Library. To the right of Mrs. Russak's house appears in the background the other end of the library building, and just underneath it a little roofed bridge leading from Mrs. Russak's house to the President's quarters. The balcony with the sloping roof in the middle of the picture is the President's, and the windows of her sitting-room and bedroom may be seen beneath it. The white projection with three arches which comes next to her room is the veranda in front of the drawing-room, where meetings are held in wet weather; and the other little bit with a sloping roof on the extreme right is the balcony of Mr. Wadia's room, where all the sub-editing of *The Theosophist* is done.

6. THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING FROM THE NORTH.

7. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE NORTH-EAST

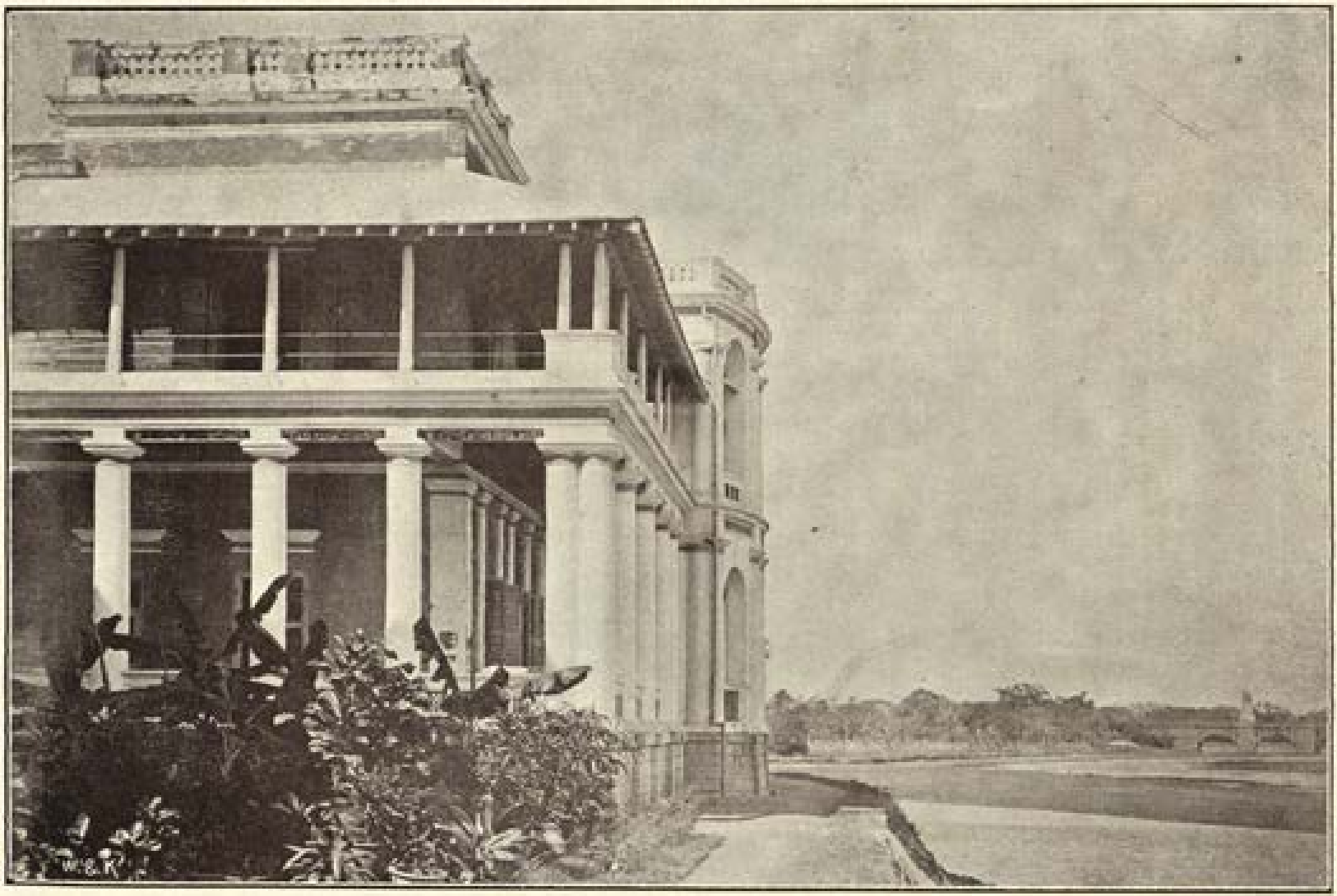
This is another view taken from the same island, but from a point further down towards the sea, so that we include in our purview the eastern garden pavilion, which from this position stands just in front of the end of the library building. The resemblance to a sun-helmet, which I have previously mentioned, is clearly visible. It will be observed that from the octagon room towards our left there runs a continuation—two rooms with a veranda in front of them, looking out over the river. The first of these rooms was here from the beginning, but that at the end has been recently added, and the division between them may be traced by examining the line of the roof. Also, on the roof of the new room a temporary palm-leaf hut has been erected, for this photograph was taken at the time of the Convention, when all available accommodation had to be utilised. The older room next to the octagon is at present occupied by Mr. Johan van Manen, the Assistant Librarian, and that at the end by Mr. Irving Cooper from America. Underneath the President's rooms are those of the Recording Secretary of the Society, and under the balcony of the drawing-room is the veranda of the reading-room. The highest part of the roof on the right—that which stands up slightly above the President's balcony and that of the drawing-room—marks the outline of the original large room on the roof which was at first occupied by Madame Blavatsky. From this point, when the early morning sun falls upon it, we have an opportunity of admiring the delicate colouring of the Headquarters building. When I first saw it in 1884 it was an indeterminate greyish colour, but a few years later Colonel Olcott, somewhere in his travels, saw a particular shade of terracotta which went admirably well with the deep dark green of the tropical foliage. He immediately had a tile painted of that colour, and when he returned home he took much trouble to get exactly that shade reproduced for his beloved Headquarters. That hue remained for many years, indeed until quite recently. One day it occurred to Mrs. Russak to have the building repainted as a welcome to Mrs. Besant on her return after one of her tours. The colours chosen were blue, white and yellow, and the effect, though brilliant, was by no means bad. It soon began to be apparent, however, that the new garment of the Headquarters was not to last as long as the old one had done. Flakes began to peel off and the Colonel's old colour came through with such remarkable persistency that, after several efforts to suppress it, we have had to yield the point, and while I write the Headquarters is being restored to the hue which the President-Founder chose for it.



7. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE NORTH-EAST.

8. THE PRESIDENT'S VERANDA

We now leave the island, on which it was necessary to stand in order to obtain a view of the Headquarters as a whole; we cross this arm of the river, and stand close in front of the building itself. If we take up a position just in front of Mrs. Russak's house, and then turn our faces to the west (so as to have that house on our left hand and the river on our right), we shall have before us the view represented in the following photograph. Straight in front of us, behind those lower pillars, are the rooms of the Recording Secretary, Mr. J. R. Aria; and above them we see the President's veranda, on which she takes her morning coffee and afternoon tea—where also she sits in the evening, surrounded by those who are dearest to her. On this balcony the most august Visitors have occasionally honoured us with Their presence, and its magnetism is consequently of the most elevated nature. Under its roof may be seen the two doors leading into the President's office—the square chamber which Colonel Olcott added to the L-shaped room used by Madame Blavatsky. Mrs. Besant still uses the upright stroke of the L as a bedroom, as did Madame Blavatsky; while the horizontal stroke of the L is now an ante-room. It was in that ante-room that Damodar and I were sitting when I first had the honour of seeing the Master Morya. Madame Blavatsky lay in the bedroom behind, supposed to be at the point of death; and I remember we were sitting on the floor with our backs against a sofa, talking sadly enough, as may be imagined. Suddenly we heard a quick military tread on the flat roof outside, and a tall form strode in at the door. I knew Him instantly, from a close study of the portrait, and we sprang to our feet and prostrated ourselves before Him. He spoke no word to us, but passed quickly with a bright smile and a benedictory wave of the hand into Madame Blavatsky's bedroom. A rapid conversation went on there for some minutes, while Damodar and I sat outside talking in awed whispers, yet full of hope. Presently He passed out again as swiftly as ever, giving us another bright smile; then our attention was recalled to things of this earth by Madame Blavatsky energetically shouting for Mrs. Cooper-Oakley, and demanding her clothes instantly, as she intended forthwith to get up. She did, and I remember the face of the doctor who came round the next morning expecting to have to sign the certificate of her death, and found her enjoying her breakfast!



8. THE PRESIDENT'S VERANDA.

9. THE RUSSAK HOUSE

If, while standing in the same place, we turn our backs to the river, having the President's rooms on our right, we find ourselves facing Mrs. Russak's house, the front door of which is shown on the next page. Note especially the Theosophical seal above the doorway, and the two yellow lions, of which Mrs. Russak is very proud. The gentleman sitting at the top of the steps is Monsieur Charles Blech, the General Secretary of the French Section, and the lady is Mrs. Rocke, who holds a doctor's diploma, and has very kindly been looking after the health of the residents at Headquarters during the last twelve months. This little house, like all others built in the Anglo-Indian style, looks much larger outside than it really is, because of the wide verandas which surround it. As, however, these verandas are often shut off from the outer world by grass or fibre blinds, they are practically additional rooms, and a good deal of the family life is passed in them. In this house there is on each floor one large square room, and one small one beside it—not counting the bathrooms, which are an indispensable appendage to every Indian bedroom. When our staff is at its full strength Mrs. Russak herself inhabits the upper floor, and Mrs. Van Hook and her son live on the ground floor. During Mrs. Russak's absence, Mrs. Van Hook is using the upper floor, and until she left Mrs. Rocke occupied the large room downstairs. The house is pleasant, and the rooms are lofty and well built; but many people are of opinion that Colonel Olcott was not well advised in selecting its site, as while it lies open to the north-east winds in the cooler months, it is completely shut away from the strong south-western breezes which so pleasantly relieve the warm weather. Unquestionably also it is somewhat too close to the President's balcony, and to some extent interferes with its view. On the ground-floor this house has no communication with the main building, but on the first floor it is connected with it by a bridge.

9. Mrs. RUSSAK'S HOUSE.

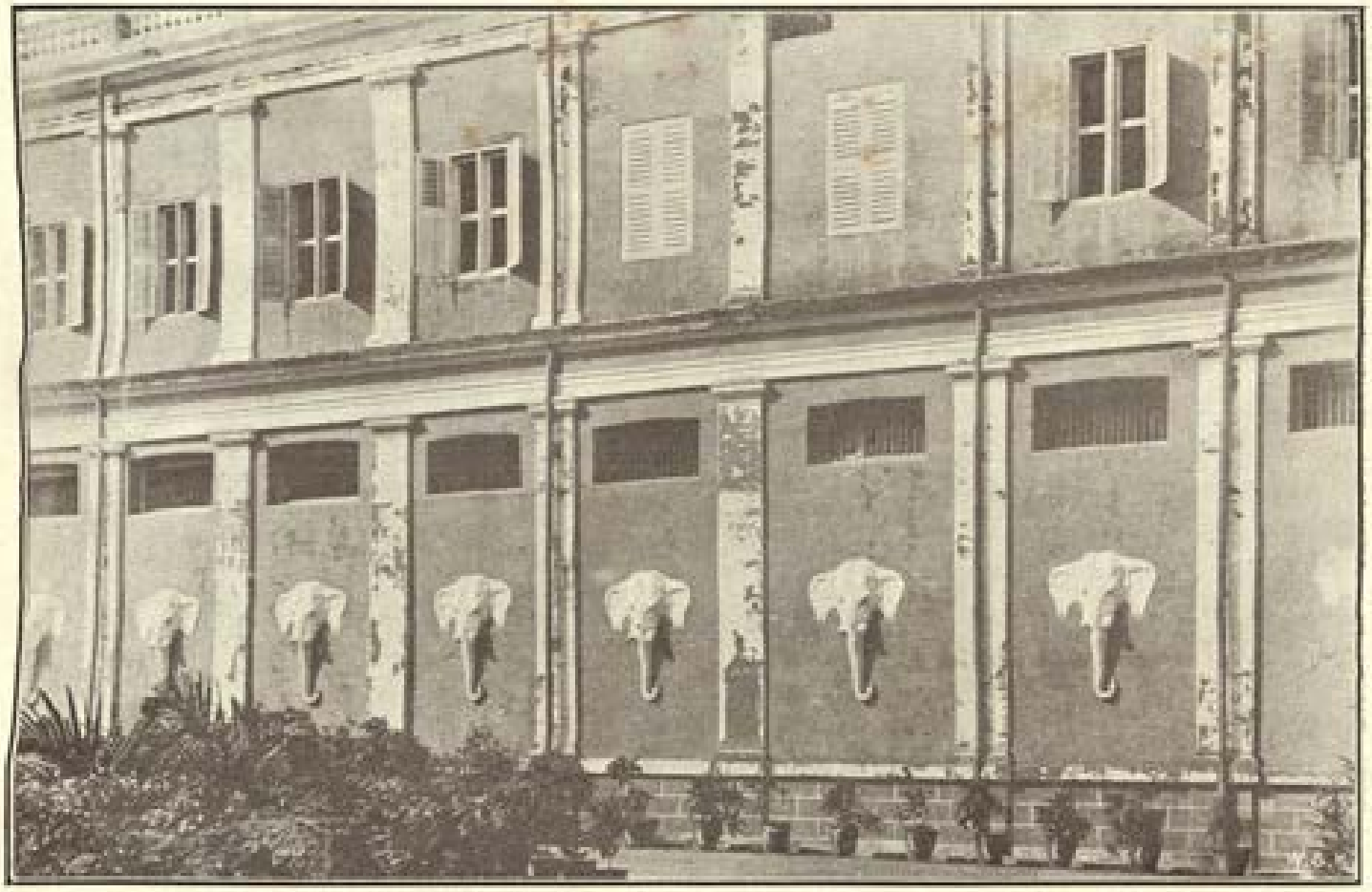
10. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE EAST

If now we turn our backs upon the President's rooms, and walk round the Russak house, we shall see the eastern end of the Headquarters. This view is taken from the corner of the tennis-ground, with the object of making clear the exact relation of the Russak residence to the library building. Mrs. Russak's is the house on the right of the illustration, and we are looking at the eastern end of it, and straight up the alley which separates it from the library, the veranda of which is to be seen on the left of our photograph. Upstairs on the extreme left a corner of my own terrace appears, and at the end of the alley in the middle of our picture we see on the first floor a corner of the veranda which surrounds the old square room in the middle of the original roof, this end of which is now occupied by Alcyone and Mizar. Just in front of that veranda, and between it and the parapet, is the section of roof upon which our evening meetings are held, another view of which will presently be shown. In trying to understand the arrangement of this part of the house the reader will be much assisted by the plans given at the end of the book. It will be seen that a small covered bridge connects Mrs. Russak's house with the meeting-place on the roof. The corridor which runs along beside the library leads into the eastern end of the Convention Hall, while the window, a portion of which is visible to the extreme left, is one of those of Dr. Schrader's study.

10. THE HEADQUARTERS FROM THE EAST.

11. THE SOUTH WALL OF THE LIBRARY

The rooms devoted to the housing of the Adyar Library were built especially for that purpose, and consequently, in order to economise wall-space, they have no windows of the ordinary kind, but only narrow slits for the admission of light close under the ceiling. It will be noticed that these slits are triply guarded—once by heavy iron bars, to keep out the common burglar; secondly, by wire netting, to keep out the far more insidious squirrel and bat, which would otherwise disport themselves among the literature and speedily destroy everything; and thirdly, with glass which can be closed to keep out the dust or rain when a southerly gale is blowing. These narrow windows naturally left on the outside a large expanse of somewhat unsightly bare walls, and it occurred to Colonel Olcott to decorate these by huge elephant heads in *bas-relief*. I am told that he personally superintended the construction and mounting of these casts, and that they were done in sections, and joined only as they were placed in position. As may be seen, there are eight of these massive adornments. Lifting our eyes to the floor above, the first three windows, beginning from the left, are those of the E. S. meeting-room, while the fourth gives light to the Shrine Room, in which are beautiful oil portraits of four of the Adepts who are principally concerned with the working of the Theosophical Society. There are also portraits in oils of the two Founders, Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott, and some other smaller pictures of great interest—one, which was phenomenally produced, showing the valley in Tibet in which live two of our Masters. The two windows to the extreme right on the first floor belong to my room, and give me a lovely view over the flower-garden and down towards Vasantapuram. This room seems to me one of the pleasantest in the house. It is thirty feet square, and open to the breeze on three sides. It has the ordinary Indian veranda on two sides, and in front a little terrace, where Alcyone's parallel bars are kept. What appear to be two closed windows between mine and that of the Shrine Room are in reality only ingenious imitations in plaster. The little dark square above one of them is a tiny window on the same principle as those in the library below, and the pillar beyond it marks the western boundary of my room.



11. THE SOUTH WALL OF THE LIBRARY.

12. THE CONVENTION HALL

Having thoroughly surveyed the outside of the Headquarters building, and obtained a general idea of its arrangement, we will now return to the front entrance at which the traveller's carriage deposited him so long ago. There are two main entrances to the hall from the south—one on each side of the speakers' platform; the light shining in through the first of these may be observed on the first pillar at the right of the photograph. Immediately beyond that pillar is the platform; part of a chair and table upon it may be seen projecting into view. The two movable spiked fences which are prominent in our illustration are those which separate the reserved seats from the others at Convention time. Away beyond them we see the entrance to the Adyar Library, with a huge gong suspended in the air just through the archway. Above the archway is a curious *bas-relief* of a fragment of an Indian procession. Round the upper part of the hall are various symbols in ovals, and on four panels below these are plaster representations of the Lord Buddha, the Christ, the Lord Krishna and the Prophet Zoroaster. These, however, are not visible in the photograph. It will be understood that it is impossible to get the whole of a T-shaped hall into one photograph, and this view includes only a little more than half of the upper bar of the T. This upper bar is eighty-four feet in length by twenty-five in width, while the original hall (which projects northward in front of the speaker and makes the perpendicular stroke of the T) is forty-three feet in depth and twenty-nine feet wide. The shape makes it difficult to describe intelligibly, but with the assistance of the plan at the end of the book a correct idea may be obtained. At the back of that original hall are folding doors leading into the reading-room. During the Convention lectures these doors were thrown open, and the audience filled the reading-room as well. As will be seen, there are a certain number of benches, but an Indian audience usually sits cross-legged on the floor, and the open square in front of the platform is always filled in this way. How the hall came to have this curious shape, and by what stages it has advanced to its present condition, I have described in the preface.

12. THE CONVENTION HALL.

13. THE STATUES

At the back of the speakers' platform in the Convention Hall is a deep recess in which are the statues of our Founders. That of Madame Blavatsky was set up by Colonel Olcott in the year 1899, and it bears upon its pediment the inscription: "H. P. B. Amicitiæ nostræ testimonium. 8. V. 1899. H. S. O." The statue was the work of an Indian student named Govinda Pillai. After the death of Colonel Olcott in 1907 our present President conceived the happy idea of joining his statue to that of his illustrious friend. The same artist was again called into requisition, and the Colonel now stands beside his colleague with his hand upon her shoulder, just as he so often stood in life. On the pediment of the statues is the inscription "In loving memory of the Founders of the T. S., 1891 and 1907," and vases of flowers are daily placed there as though upon an altar. Every year upon White Lotus Day (May 8th), the anniversary of Madame Blavatsky's departure from the physical plane, a special meeting takes place in the Hall, and in fulfilment of her wish passages are read from *The Light of Asia* and the *Bhagavad-Gītā*, and addresses are delivered by those who had the honour of knowing her while in the flesh. On February 17th, the anniversary of Colonel Olcott's departure, the ceremony is somewhat different. All the members of the household and all the servants of the estate meet in the Convention Hall. There are no readings, as on White Lotus Day, nor any set speeches, but the President says a few words of kindly remembrance. Then all those who are present file past the platform in order, and each as he reaches it mounts it for a moment, bows in salutation, and throws a flower at the feet of the statue; for as the Colonel has left us so recently all the servants knew him and loved him. On this occasion the hall is decorated with banners, conspicuous among them being always the American flag of which the Colonel was so proud, and the Buddhist flag which he himself invented for use in the temples and monasteries of the religion to which he belonged. It consists of the colours which tradition assigns to the aura of the Lord Buddha, arranged in the order which is given in the sacred books. After the simple ceremony in the hall is over, we usually form a little procession and walk down to the spot depicted in the twenty-seventh photograph, where we once again throw heaps of roses and other flowers in front of the shrine.

13. THE STATUES.

14. ADYAR LIBRARY—FIRST ROOM

Leaving the hall at its eastern end we enter the portals of the Adyar Library, and see before us what is represented on the next page. Owing to the lighting arrangements which have been already described, it is difficult to get a good photograph of these rooms. They are, as will be seen, surrounded by teak-wood shelves, which in this first room are loaded with palm-leaf manuscripts—most of them in Sanskrit, but some in the Indian vernaculars. The visitors' book is seen on a round table in the foreground, and directly behind it the drawers which hold part of the card catalogues. In the centre of the picture hangs a huge Japanese lamp, a relic of the Colonel's visit to that island kingdom of the Pacific. Above it on the walls are seen some savage weapons which he picked up during his extended travels. Additions are frequently being made to the library, as one of its officials is constantly travelling about India trying to acquire for it rare manuscripts, or to arrange to have copies made of those which cannot be purchased. Up to the time of going to press the library contains nearly 12,000 manuscripts and about 8,000 books in its eastern section, and in what is called its western section there are about 11,000 books and pamphlets. Although this number seems considerable, I am sorry to say that the library is by no means as well equipped as it ought to be with modern works of reference. Since Adyar is the workshop from which a vast number of books and articles are sent out, it is obvious that we ought to have at our command the latest knowledge upon all sorts of scientific subjects. Unfortunately that is far from being the case, and members who wish to be really helpful to the Society cannot do better than present to its library copies of any important new works which come in their way. We have books in practically all the European languages; and although those in English are the most generally useful, we are very thankful for good scientific works in any language. There are so many cases in which the latest discoveries of science are revealing more and more the accuracy of certain points in Theosophical teaching, that it does seem a matter of imperative necessity that our library should be up-to-date; and I hope that its deficiencies may be speedily supplemented by the generosity of our members. We have not even a complete collection of works upon the subjects which may be supposed to be most closely allied to our special studies —such, I mean, as spiritualism, mesmerism, psychology, symbolism, masonry, secret societies, or psychical research.

14. ADYAR LIBRARY—FIRST ROOM.

15. ADYAR LIBRARY—SECOND ROOM

In this second room is the western portion of the library—or rather only part of it, for its eleven thousand books have already overflowed into the reading room. More accommodation is seriously needed, and there is little doubt that a new and much larger library-building looms in the immediate future. The most prominent object in the middle of this room is a glass cabinet in which are displayed a number of the smaller curiosities which the indefatigable President-Founder acquired during his travels about the world. The light falls rather awkwardly upon the glass, but one may just distinguish on the top shelf part of a statuette of the Colonel himself. On the next shelf below appears a Chinese image of the LORD BUDDHA in a gilt shrine, and beside it a tiny little Aztec figure. Next below this is seen a silver trowel with which Mrs. Besant laid the foundation stone of the new building of the Madanapalle High School. Below that is a silver box containing an address to Colonel Olcott from an Indian School, and below that again a silver cup presented to our Founders by the Bombay Branch, and also a couple of ostrich eggs. There are some pictures painted on single grains of rice, and many other curiosities. The copper dome upon the top of the cabinet contains part of the ashes of Madame Blavatsky. A large amount of work is being done in connection with this library, and there remains still an immense amount to do. The mere cataloguing was a very serious undertaking, and the work of comparing and correcting the many manuscripts which have been copied needs more hands than we can at present give to it. A mere scribe can do the actual copying work, but the comparing and correcting can be done only by a man of special training and considerable erudition, and of such we have but few. A descriptive catalogue of the Upanishad manuscripts in the Library has been issued, and has met with favourable comments from several of the leading academical magazines and orientalists. They were impressed by its thoroughness, and were astonished to find that the Adyar Library contained the richest collection of Upanishad manuscripts in the world. A second catalogue has also been issued, merely giving a list of the other manuscripts contained in the library. If all these manuscripts were described as fully as those mentioned in the first volume of the catalogue, twenty-five such volumes would be filled; so it will be seen that even now in its infancy our library is not to be despised.

15. ADYAR LIBRARY—SECOND ROOM.

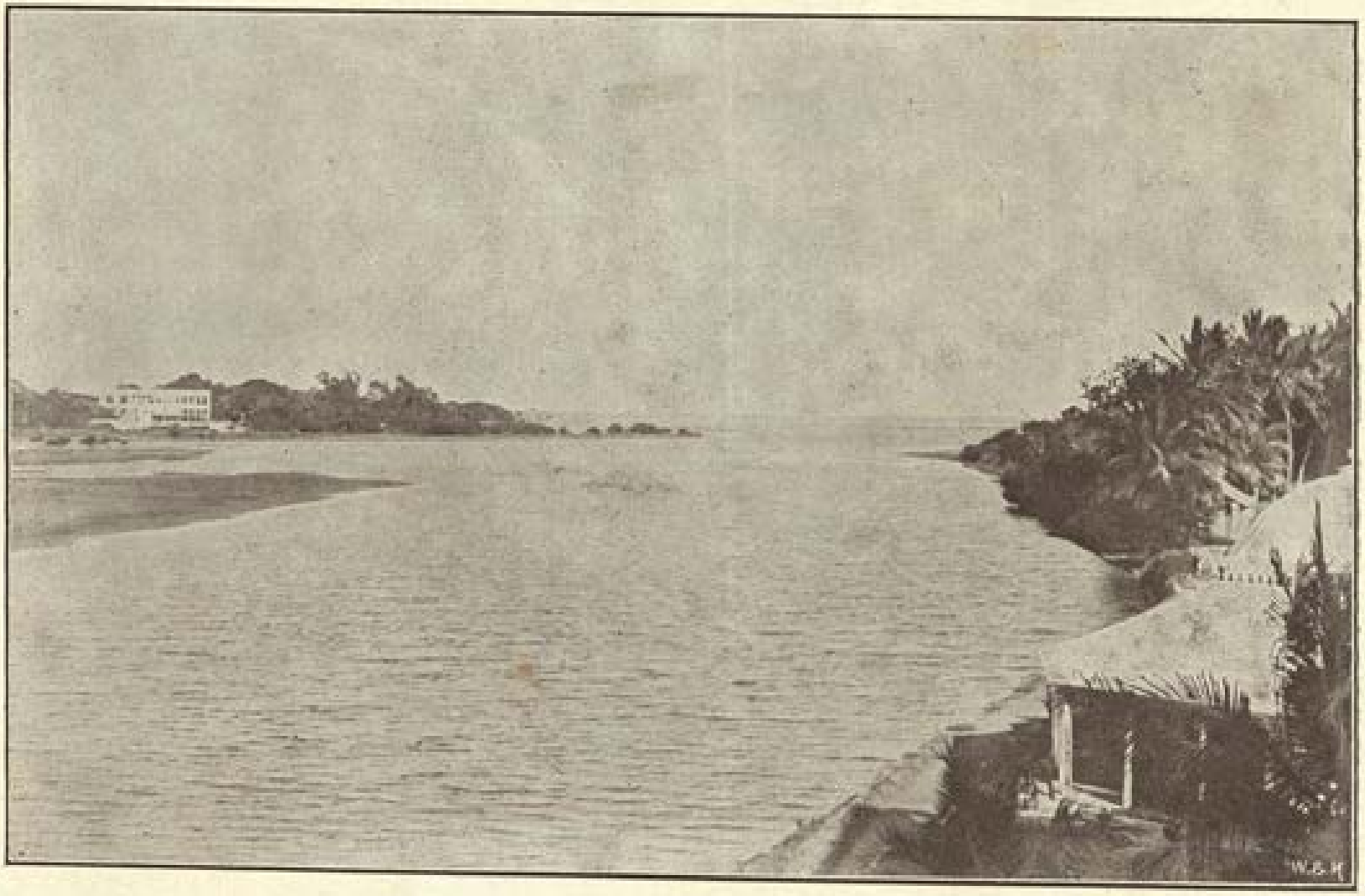
16. ON THE ROOF

This photograph cost much trouble to obtain, but Alcyone felt that his book would be incomplete without a view of the historic meeting-place on the roof. There we gather every evening at 7.15 to listen to the words of wisdom which fall from the lips of our President; here were spoken, during her absence in 1909, the "Adyar Talks" which have since been published in the book *The Inner Life*. The chair in the further corner, with the foot-stool before it, is the President's; I habitually sit in the chair which I am seen to be occupying, and between us sits Alcyone. Our Indian brothers fill the carpet in front of us, sitting cross-legged on the floor, while an additional row of seats is placed behind the chairs all round the hollow square for the accommodation of the European residents. Even the steps are frequently made to furnish seats for some of the house-party. This piece of roof is situated at the end of the long alley shown in the tenth illustration. The roof which runs into the picture from the right-hand bottom corner is that of the bridge from Mrs. Russak's house. In order to understand, suppose yourself to be coming on to the roof by that bridge, and to halt at the end of it, facing straight across towards where I am sitting. The opening immediately at your right leads into Mrs. Besant's room. You will notice that the blind belonging to that section is rolled up, but that the next two sections are down. That was done in order to provide a temporary bed-room for Miss A. J. Willson, who acts as Secretary to the President. When she is not there, those blinds are drawn up, and the width of that veranda is added to the space in which we meet. The window just above the President's chair is that of Alcyone's room, and if you walk straight across there, and then turn to the right under the veranda, you will pass up three steps into the drawing-room, the raised roof of which may be seen in the right upper corner of the photograph. It was in front of the President's door, under that veranda which is temporarily occupied by Miss Willson, that I was sitting in the year 1885, with the late Mr. T. Subba Rao, when I first had the honour of seeing the Master K. H. I saw Him first in the act of stepping over the balustrade at the southern edge of the roof; He advanced with rapid steps straight across the roof to where we were sitting, greeted each of us in the fashion of our respective countries, sat down with us and talked for about twenty minutes.

16. ON THE ROOF.

17. THE BANK OF THE RIVER

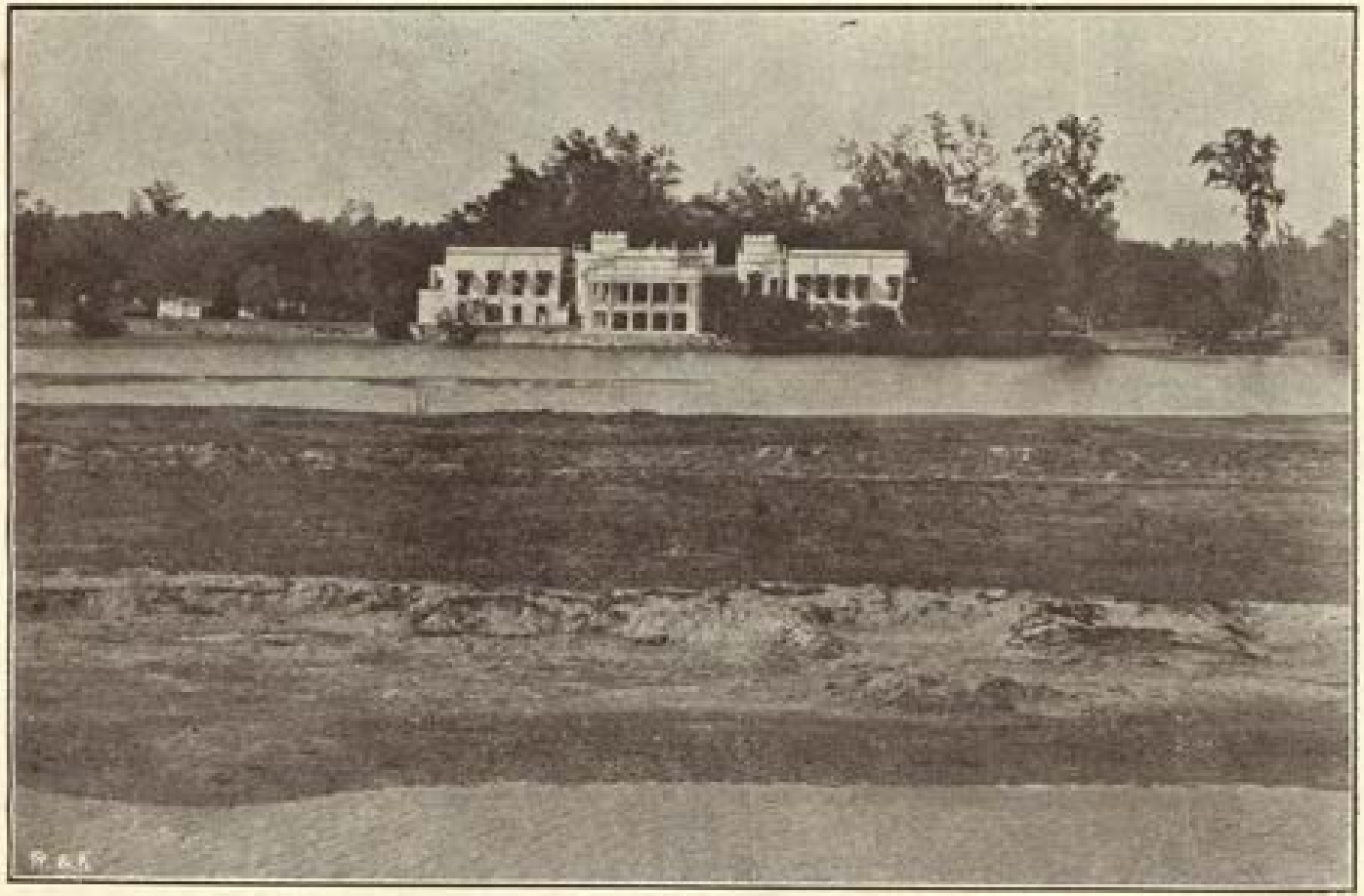
Having thus examined the meeting-place on the roof, let us enter the President's rooms. They are small, but conveniently fitted. The north-west corner of her office is occupied by a large wooden platform, raised about a foot from the floor. On this she sits all day on a tiger skin, cross-legged like an Indian, writing at a curious little table, also about a foot high, which stands upon the platform. Beside her on her left is a great window which affords her abundance of light. Directly in front of her on the opposite wall hangs a life-sized portrait of Alcyone, and also a beautifully-executed panel of Madame Blavatsky. In the middle of the east wall of the room is the large glass door giving access to the veranda, and looking out towards the sea; and beyond that in the south-east corner is a roller-top desk presented to Colonel Olcott on his seventieth birthday. At that I sit and work, when business calls me into the President's room. In the south-west corner is a glass-fronted cabinet filled with curious relics of Madame Blavatsky and objects connected with the Masters—letters in Their handwriting, the turban given to Colonel Olcott by the Master Morya in New York, the cup phenomenally produced at Simla by Madame Blavatsky, and other such curiosities. It has not been found possible to produce a satisfactory photograph of the interior of the President's sanctum, the room being small and the light unsuitable; but at least Alcyone has succeeded in reproducing for us the scenes upon which her eyes habitually rest, giving us a series of three excellent photographs of the views from her veranda towards the east, the north and the west. What is given on the next page is the view looking east. In the distance we see the Bay of Bengal and the mouth of the Adyar River. To the right we see part of the eastern pavilion—the octagon room round which many Theosophical traditions have gathered—and the leafy promontory beyond it. To the left we see an ordinary Anglo-Indian house, away on the other side of the river, and nearer to us the eastern end of the island in connection with which I once had a very remarkable experience, which I described at the time in *The Theosophist* for October 1888. The account will be reprinted soon in my forthcoming book of stories.



17. THE BANK OF THE RIVER.

18. THE OPPOSITE SHORE

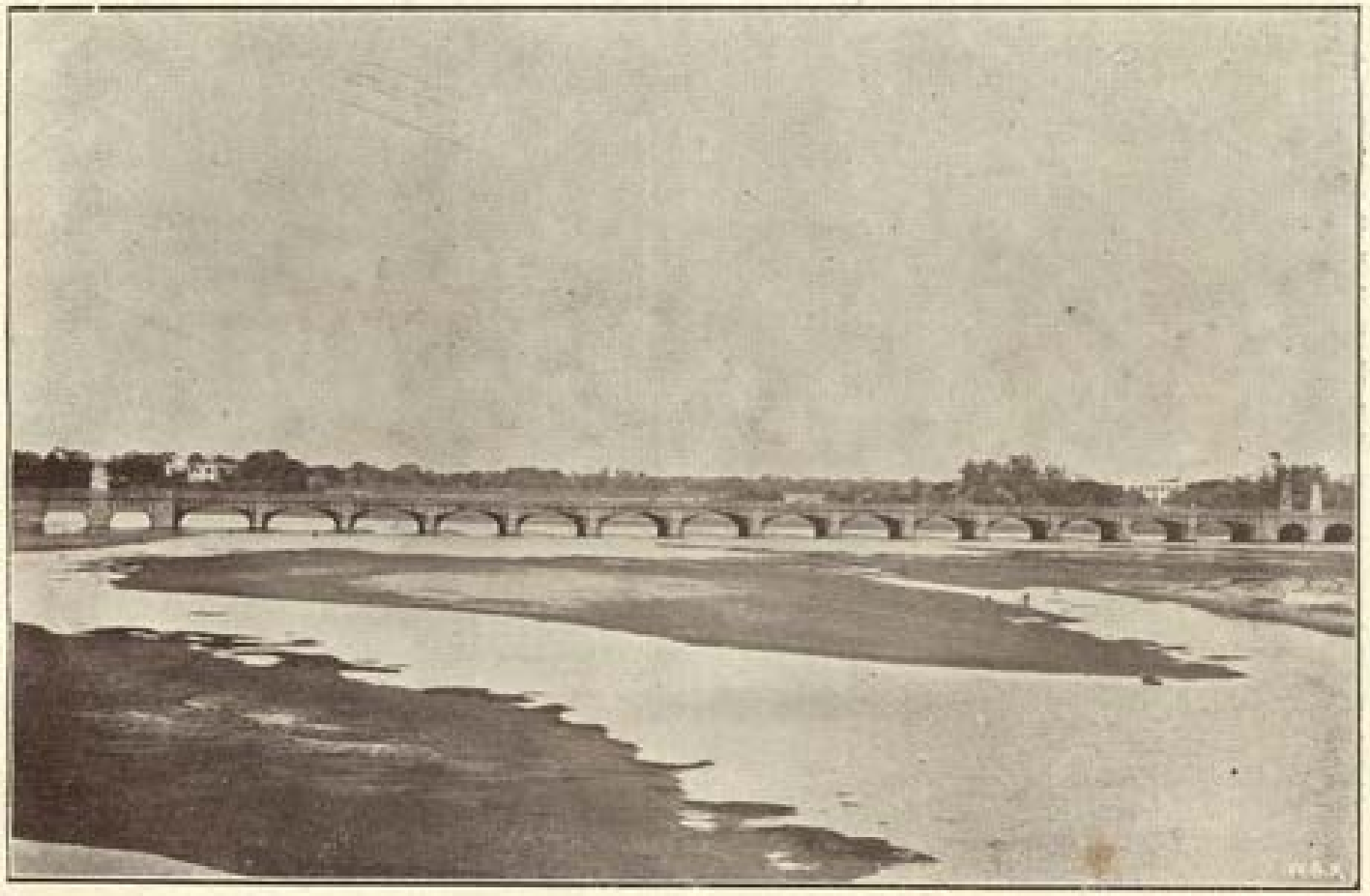
This photograph gives us the view from the President's veranda looking north. The house which stands out so prominently on the opposite bank is an Anglo-Indian residence called Brodie Castle, and it makes really a pretty picture with its background of trees. In the foreground lies the island which I mentioned on the previous page. Now it looks low and somewhat barren, though it is covered with grass and small plants, which are constantly being cropped by herds of goats and cattle. At the time of my adventure it was far more picturesque, for it was thickly clothed with lofty casuarina-trees, which completely hid Brodie Castle and its grounds. It is perhaps a moot question whether the beautiful waving line of feathery tree-tops one hundred and fifty yards away was preferable to the far wider but flatter view which is displayed to us now. I may mention that this photograph seems to me somewhat deceptive, because in order to obtain better definition of detail in Brodie Castle it has been taken with a peculiar extension of the camera which produces much the same effect as the use of a tele-photographic lens, and makes distant objects appear much nearer than they really are. (The same plan, by the way, was adopted with the first photograph in this book, representing the view of the Headquarters from the bridge, so that in that case also the house looks much nearer than it really is.) The Adyar River between the Headquarters and Brodie Castle is over six hundred yards in width, so that to the naked eye the Castle appears distinctly smaller than one would suppose from our illustration. It may be noticed that the part of the island nearest to us has the appearance of having been recently quarried. That is because last year we removed many boat-loads of sand from it, in order to fill up a tank and to erect a dam to prevent the encroachment of the water upon our property when the river is high. At present the excavations still show, but after the next rainy season they will be covered by herbage like the rest of the island.



18. THE OPPOSITE SHORE.

19. THE BRIDGE

In looking to the north from the President's veranda our eyes are at once arrested by the Elphinstone Bridge—so called, I presume, after the celebrated Lieutenant-Governor of Bombay. This bridge, which was finished in 1842, is a handsome structure some 520 yards in length. Over it on the left we catch a glimpse of a large Jesuit College, whose pupils often pass through our grounds on their way to bathe in the sea. The worthy Fathers in charge of them attire themselves in the ordinary cassock of the priest, but it is white instead of black, and crowned by a sun-helmet instead of the usual decorous clerical hat. The house on the right is a private one. The photograph had to be taken when the sun was in the right position to give us the best view of the bridge, and that happens to have coincided with an unusually low tide. During the greater part of the year we have an unbroken sheet of water between us and the bridge, and so much of sand as is here shown can only be seen when we have the combination of a low river and low tide. In the rainy season the Adyar River fills its channel to the very top of its embankments, and rushes down with a strong and rapid stream. Some part at any rate of the island in front of the Headquarters is always above water, but I have swum across to it when the current was so powerful that, though I started from our bank at a point higher than the guest-house, I was only just able to reach the eastern extremity of the island, and thus to save myself from being swept out to sea. After the rainy season is over the water soon goes down, and for several months the river remains tidal, rising and falling regularly at certain hours of the day. The variation of the tide in the Bay of Bengal is but small—not more than three feet at the most; but even that slight change is enough to uncover some of the sand-banks. As the river is the principal water-supply for this part of the Buckingham Canal, it is inconvenient to allow it to fall beyond a certain level: so when that is reached the authorities usually close the bar at the mouth, and for some months the depth is constant. Then comes again the rainy season and a great rush of water, and the bar is speedily swept away.



19. THE BRIDGE.

20. THE FRONT GARDEN

Let us now leave the President's veranda and descend into the garden. At the top of the stairs on the way down we catch a glimpse of the front garden, which is represented in the following photograph, taken from that point. It is directly opposite the southern front of the house, separated from the carriage-drive only by a low hedge. In every Indian garden the principal consideration is the water-supply, and even in the little corner which is shown in this view the mouth of a small reservoir may be observed. The watering arrangements are of the most primitive description; the garden hose and the watering-pot are entirely unknown, and the precious fluid is carried by hand in globular red earthen pots. This particular part of our garden might almost be described as a nursery, for all those rows of flower-pots contain plants which, when they have reached the proper stage of growth, will be transferred to the flower-beds in other parts of our extensive grounds. It needs a considerable staff of gardeners to keep things going at all, and if we could afford to have three times the number we could make a really splendid show; for a garden here needs practically ceaseless attention if the best results are to be obtained. The flora is magnificent, and there is no time of year when we are without flowers of some kind or other. Only a few of them are the same as those of temperate climes; we have plenty of roses, but not the splendours of the *gloire de Dijon* or the great damask roses that we know so well in England. On the other hand we have all kinds of cannas, hibiscus, bougainvillia, agapanthus, poinsettia and oleanders, and we are especially strong in flowering trees and shrubs with gorgeous coloured foliage. To my own mind there is no foliage so beautiful as that of the tropics; but one must admit that in this respect India falls far behind the wonderful forests of South America.

20. THE FRONT GARDEN.

21. THE STUDIO

Looking across the front garden to the south-west we see a comparatively new building which has been erected in the interests of art by Miss Florence Fuller of Perth, Western Australia. This lady has rendered great help to the Society by painting for us several portraits of the Masters, and also of the Founders of the Society. A portrait of the President from her hands hangs in the E. S. room, and portraits of many other members of the household are to be seen in her little picture-gallery. I believe that Miss Fuller's idea is to provide a historical pictorial record—a set of illustrations to the chronicle of the Society's life. For this purpose she is painting a series of portraits of the prominent members of the working staff here, and of the more important among the visitors. At present Miss Fuller lives and works in the upper storey of her new house, at a window of which she may be seen along, with two of her young pupils—an Indian Brahman girl and a small Zulu boy—both of whom, I am told exhibit signs of considerable talent. The pictures on exhibition are at present hung in the room below. The artist paints landscapes as well as portraits, and catches the peculiar tone of the Indian view just as successfully as she used to render the utterly different character of the face of nature in Australia. Everyone who knows Australia will agree with me that it is like no other land on earth—that it has a characteristic spirit, an atmosphere all its own. I have never seen anywhere pictures which caught that spirit, which reflected that atmosphere, as did some of Miss Fuller's which I had the pleasure of seeing when in Perth.

21. THE STUDIO.

22. LOOKING SOUTH-EAST FROM THE ROOF

If, when standing on the same spot at the head of the stairs from which we glanced down upon the front garden, we take a few steps forwards, and turn our gaze to the left, the view which lies before us is that given in the next photograph. We still see a corner of the garden, and beyond it the third trilithon, a nearer view of which will be given a few pages later. The building which is just visible among the trees a little to the right of the trilithon is *The Theosophist* Office, from which are issued not only the magazines which we all await so eagerly each month, but also a vast mass of Theosophical literature. This building was formerly used as a warehouse, and was for some time occupied by the Vasanta Press. The business of these various departments is increasing so rapidly that all of them are outgrowing the accommodation available; and though it is only quite recently that *The Theosophist* Office moved hither from the western pavilion, its indefatigable manager already complains bitterly that he has nowhere to store the ever-growing piles of literature. Under ordinary circumstances the office is quiet enough, the various clerks sitting at their desks making up accounts, answering letters and packing up books. But once each month, at any rate, it becomes a scene of frenzied activity, as cart-load after cart-load of *Theosophists* arrive from the Press, are expeditiously unloaded, piled on the floor, then packed and tied up by a crowd of willing helpers, and again loaded into hand-carts for conveyance across the bridge to the Adyar Post-Office. For letters and small packages we have two post-boxes on the estate, which are emptied ten times a day; but a great mass like an issue of *The Theosophist* we have to send across to the Post-Office. A minor cycle of disturbance is the monthly despatch of *The Adyar Bulletin*; but that is altogether a smaller affair. A good idea of the exuberance of tropical foliage may be gained from this charming photograph. The road which is seen emerging from the left-hand bottom corner is the carriage-drive in front of the Headquarters. The road which goes straight through the trilithon leads to Vasantapuram; that which turns sharply to the right, just on this side of it, leads to Blavatsky Gardens, and the turn to the left goes round the end of the house to the eastern pavilion.

22. LOOKING SOUTH-EAST FROM THE ROOF.

23. THE THIRD TRILITHON

The third of these strange monuments closely resembles the second, but the inscriptions upon it are different. On the side of the horizontal stone which faces us is written the word "Vasantapuram"; but as it is written in blue letters on a white ground, and as blue in photography comes out white, it needs a specially keen eye to distinguish it. On the other side of that stone is the inscription, "José Xifré, Discipulo de H. P. B., Servidor de los Maestros; 1889—1905," showing that it was set up by Madame Blavatsky's old friend, the Presidential Agent for Spain. *Vasanta* is the Indian form of Besant, and *puram* means a place or village. So this name, which means "Besant Village," is given to a little collection of houses down at the end of the avenue of palm-trees which is seen through the gateway—houses which are inhabited by most of our Indian fellow-workers. That which is partially visible far away at the end of the avenue is the old swimming-bath; opposite to it stood for years a row of picturesque but dark little cottages. All these have just been pulled down, and commodious little houses with a reasonable amount of space between them are being erected instead of them. In the centre of this little village there is a raised cement platform, circular in shape and roofed with palm-leaves, where it is the custom for our Indian friends to sit and talk in the evening, under the branches of a wide-spreading mahogany tree. Down here also is Mrs. Besant's dining-room, for which food is specially supplied from the Brahman kitchen. On the extreme right of the photograph appears the façade of *The Theosophist* Office, and on the extreme left, behind the primitive lamp, is the little house of Mr. Ranga Reddi, the Superintendent of the Gardens.

23. THE THIRD TRILITHON.

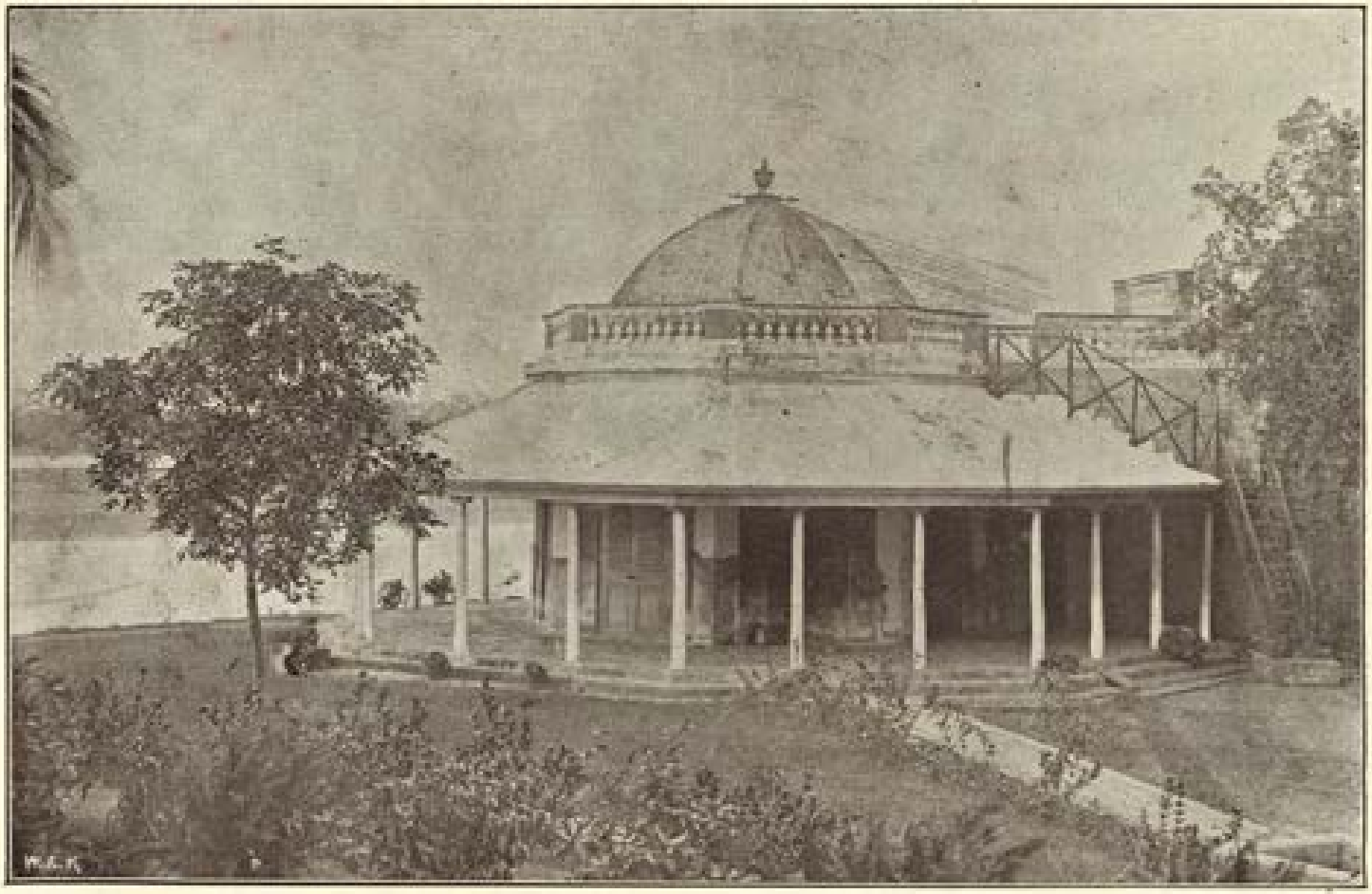
24. THE TENNIS COURT

Perhaps few tennis-courts in the world have prettier surroundings than this. It has, however, one serious drawback—that it lies east and west; for as the morning and the evening are the only times when outdoor games are played in India, this means that the players on one side or the other usually have the sun full in their eyes. But the court could not be made otherwise than it is. It is situated at the eastern end of the Headquarters building, between Mr. Ranga Reddi's house and the eastern pavilion. A little more than a year ago that site was occupied by a tank, picturesque but odoriferous. The introduction of the new system of irrigation and of a gas engine for pumping rendered the tank unnecessary, and regard for the health of the inhabitants of Headquarters made it eminently desirable to eliminate it; so a host of work-people were engaged, permission was obtained from the Buckingham Canal Commissioners to dig sand upon the island, and the tank was rapidly filled. Such work as this is done by a particular caste of people, who have a number of curious customs. They are exceedingly independent, and will work only from ten o'clock to four; but in that short day they do much more work than any other set of people out here can achieve from early morn till dewy eve. Men and women work together, the latter doing quite as much as the former; and it was a great sight to see them running across from the boat to the tank, shouting and singing as they carried heavy baskets of sand upon their heads. Our tank was soon filled, and it was interesting to see how carefully the fish, frogs and others of its inhabitants were removed to a neighbouring tank when their quarters began to get unpleasantly cramped. We have had a good deal of trouble to get a satisfactory surface to our court, for the soil here is very dry and sandy. Even now it requires constant attention in the way of rolling and watering. Fortunately Alcyone has taken to tennis with most satisfactory enthusiasm, and he and I and Mr. Kirby are usually the principal players, except when a contingent of the professors of the Central Hindu College arrive; and then we have some really exciting times on the Theosophical tennis-ground.

24. THE TENNIS COURT.

25. THE OCTAGON ROOM

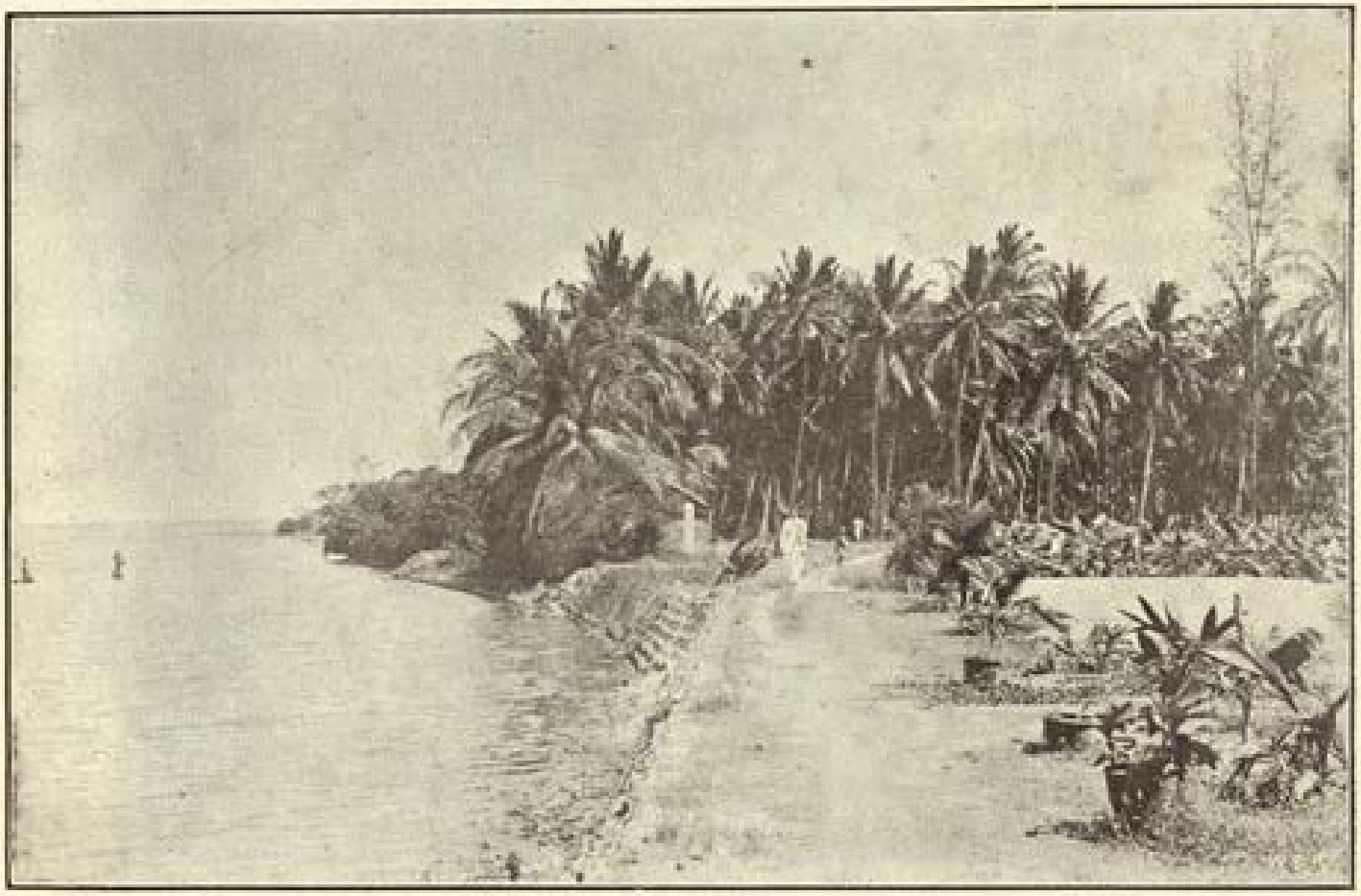
We come now to the eastern pavilion—an edifice which for me at least is full of the happiest associations. When I arrived here in 1884 Dr. Franz Hartmann was occupying the domed octagon room of our illustration, but when he left for Europe with Madame Blavatsky in 1885 I succeeded him there, and inhabited it until I sailed for Ceylon in 1886, and on my various visits to the Headquarters during the following years. From that room I was taken to the "curious experience" upon the island to which I have before referred; to that room often came the blessed Master K. H.; in that room happened the most important events of my life. When I reached Adyar on my tour round the world with my dear friends, Mr. Basil Hodgson-Smith and Mr. Fritz Kunz, in 1905, it was in that room that we lodged; when I returned here in 1909 with Mr. Johan van Manen to take up my present work, the President's kindness put me back again into the same hallowed spot; and when, last August, that same unfailing kindness offered me my present room, so far larger and more convenient, it was not without some hesitation that I cut myself adrift from those familiar moorings. The room is one of the original buildings, and is therefore not less than seventy years old. Its actual accommodation is not large, for the octagon is only sixteen feet in diameter; but it is surrounded by a veranda ten feet wide. There are no windows, but four double doors, all of which I always kept open, day and night. Small portions of the veranda, walled off at the back, make a comfortable bedroom and bathroom. The height of its dome and the fact that its doors are open to every breeze make it a cool room even in summer, and the views of the river and the sea from its veranda are an unfailing delight. In the days of 1885 there were few of us here; the place was a jungle, and we were much nearer to nature than we are in these more civilised days. One night as I lay in bed, into that room came some wild beast of the leopard or panther order, absorbed the cat's milk in one mighty lap, and then seized the cat himself. I jumped out of bed to the rescue and, failing any more effective weapon, banged that dignified animal on the head with a heavy boot which lay handy! He turned upon me with a furious snarl, but I hurled the other boot in his face, and he dropped the cat and departed; and I, resting content with that partial victory, did not pursue the matter any further.



25. THE OCTAGON ROOM.

26. FROM THE OCTAGON LOOKING EAST

If we go round the octagon room we find only the width of a path between its veranda and the river's brink. Twenty-seven years ago there was a flight of marble steps running down from it into the water, but these have been removed in the making of the new embankment—a most necessary work to protect us from the rush of the current when the river is at its highest. I have once seen the water just up to the edge of the second step of the veranda; but that happens only at rare intervals. As may be seen in photograph No. 7, two other rooms project from the back of the octagonal room in a south-easterly direction. Only the first of these is a part of the original building; the second was added quite recently. The older room—a large and light one—was chosen by Colonel Olcott for himself in the early days of Adyar; and he tenanted it until, after Madame Blavatsky's departure, he moved upstairs at her request. On my first night at Adyar he kindly invited me to share this room with him. My bed was behind a low screen at the opposite side of the room from his. During the night I was awakened by the appearance of a stranger bearing a light; I raised myself in bed and peeped over the screen to see who he was and what he wanted. I saw him rouse the Colonel, who immediately sprang up and made obeisance to him. The stranger began speaking rapidly, but the first few words showed me that this was no business of mine, so I lay down again promptly and listened no more. In a few minutes the stranger departed as abruptly as he had come. When I asked the Colonel about this incident in the morning, he told me that it was a messenger from the Master. The following illustration shows the view from the octagon looking seaward, and the beginning of the palm-grove. In 1884 the palm-trees were hidden by a thick wood of tall casuarina-trees, which extended close up to the pavilion. The light-coloured area on the right is a brick platform, upon which a temporary palm-leaf house is erected at the time of the Convention. The path that we see before us winds down to the sea, passing on its way the subject of our next illustration.



26. FROM THE OCTAGON LOOKING EAST.

27. IN MEMORY OF THE COLONEL

The monument which we see here marks the spot upon which the funeral-pile of our President-Founder was erected. At the back stands an excellent bust of him, in a little niche which is surmounted by the Egyptian Tau-cross with a serpent wreathing round it, so as to represent the initials of the Theosophical Society. On the pediment of the shrine is the inscription, "Henry Steele Olcott, Colonel of the U. S. A. Army, President-Founder of the T. S. On this spot his body was given back to the elements by fire, February 17, 1907. May he soon return." It will be seen that from each side of the monument a sort of low wall extends, and that the two sweep round in a circle and enclose the exact spot upon which the logs were piled. The centre is now occupied by a mass of shrubs, and a comfortable seat runs round inside the low wall, so that visitors may sit there and rest on their way to the sea. This memorial is erected just within the western border of the palm-grove, not far from the little stream which formed the boundary of the original estate. The palm-grove is so distinctively tropical, so artistically beautiful and effective, that it impresses itself prominently on the memories of the students here, for every time that they come up from their homes at the Chambers or in Blavatsky Gardens to the Headquarters or the library they must necessarily pass through it, whichever of the three routes they may take. It contains about eight hundred trees, and covers between four and five acres of land. A shallow square is dug out round each tree, and all these squares are connected by tiny water-courses. Twice each week the trees are watered, and it is interesting to see that the method adopted is the very same of which we read in the bible in our youth; for on the Adyar estate to-day the gardener may be seen "watering with the foot" just as is written in Deuteronomy; for when a particular square or section is filled the gardener pushes up with his foot a little embankment of mud to keep in the water until it soaks into the ground; then by another turn of his foot he sweeps away his little temporary dam and sets the water running in another direction.

27. IN MEMORY OF THE COLONEL.

28. THE PALM-GROVE

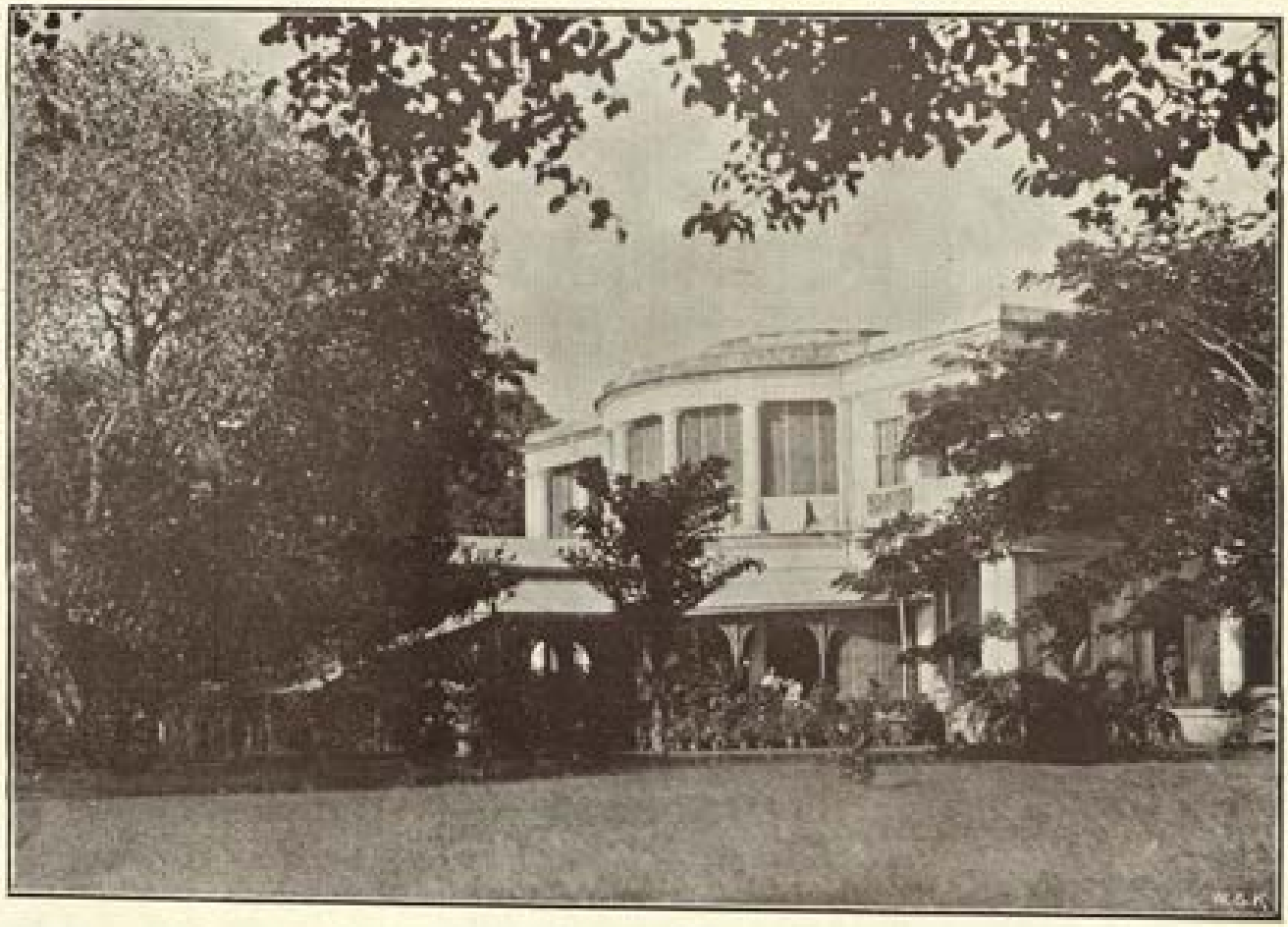
The palm-grove at Adyar has acquired a world-wide reputation among Theosophists in [consequence of Miss Browning's poetically expressed and graphic description of it in *The Adyar Bulletin* (June 1909). I cannot improve upon it, so I hope she will pardon me for reproducing it. She says:

"I do not know when it is most beautiful. During the day, we see the lofty stems soaring up to the brilliant blue sky, each crowned with an exquisite arrangement of leaves, the lowest layer drooping towards the ground, the later growth rising, tier above tier, at different angles, till the young leaves point to the zenith. Nestling at the base of the leaves one sees the cocoanuts in all stages of growth. If we glance below, there are the shadows, clearly cut and black, against the yellow background of sand—and we exclaim: 'How beautiful it is!' But return at night, and then the scene is changed. Above, the brilliant tropical moon and bright stars; below, a shimmer of sword-shaped leaves which catch the light and dancingly reflect it as they sway gently in the evening breeze. The stems are now transformed into the pillars of a temple, and mystery blends with natural beauty, while the soft-winged bat flits noiselessly to and fro. But I think that I would prefer my remembrance to be of the grove at sunset. Then there is a gorgeous display of colour on every side. Every tree and leaf stands out against a flaming orange and gold sky; the river reflects the splendour of the heavens; we can still distinguish the tender shades of green in the leaves and the circular markings on the brown trunks. But mystery is approaching and, as we watch, the twilight falls, the light fades, and round us rise ghostly shapes which shortly before were harmless stems, and above us weird clip-clappings and rustlings which in daylight are only the sounds of the leaves gently caressing each other; and then we hasten away to dinner or to study-class according to the time."

28. THE PALM GROVE.

29. BLAVATSKY GARDENS

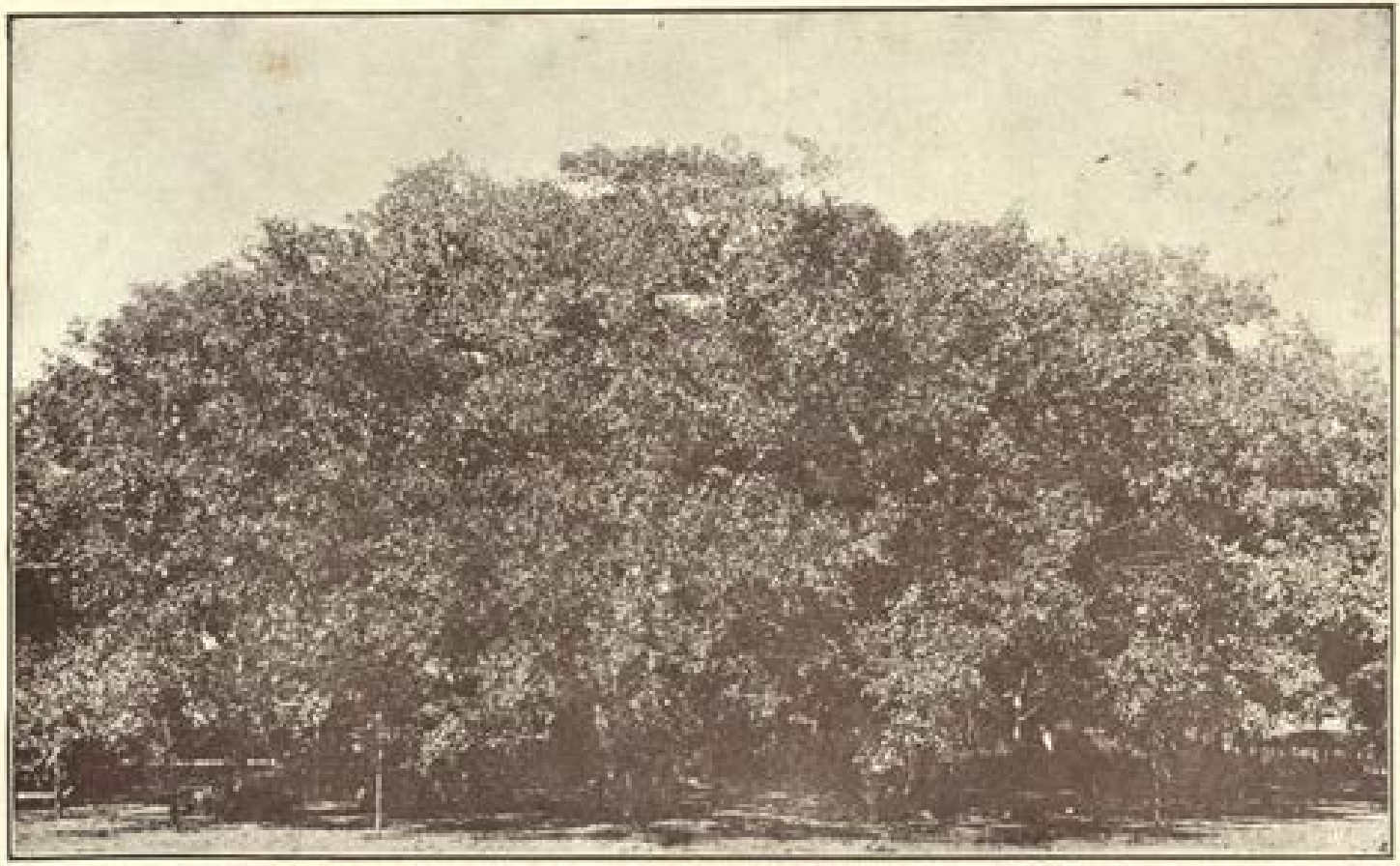
The house which is now called Blavatsky Gardens is a fine specimen of the ordinary Anglo-Indian residence, and has an estate of about eighty acres attached to it. When I came here in 1884 it was inhabited by someone of the missionary persuasion. After that it remained unoccupied for a long time, and it was offered to Colonel Olcott for the sum of £700, but he did not see his way at the time to undertake the responsibility of so large an increase to his estate. Since then land in this district has become enormously more valuable, and when our present President found it necessary to acquire it she had to pay nearly four times that price. It has been during the last two years the home of most of the visitors to Adyar, for the Headquarters building is occupied almost entirely by the working staff. The house is a fine one and beautifully situated; yet I fear that it has not always been so comfortable a home for students as it should have been. The rooms of the Anglo-Indian house are usually few but spacious; and in order to accommodate a large number of students it has been necessary to subdivide these great rooms by temporary partitions. Above all things in the tropics abundant ventilation is a necessity, therefore these partitions could not be taken up to the ceiling. The result is that we have a number of rooms which are in reality more like cubicles, and the slightest sound made in any one of them is audible in several others. Naturally, even with the greatest possible care, a certain amount of disturbance has been caused in this way to those who were trying to meditate, or were engaged in the solution of some specially knotty problem. Now that the Chambers are completed, I believe that it is the intention of the President to have all the partitions removed, and restore Blavatsky Gardens to its original conditions. It will then be devoted to the housing, not of students, but of casual visitors who desire accommodation on an altogether larger scale. It is surrounded by wide cool verandas, and has a large drawing-room and dining-room on the ground floor. It stands some distance back from the path to the sea, and the front which is shown in our illustration faces eastward. It is evident that at one time the garden must have been an elaborate one; but we have hardly a sufficient staff to reconstitute its pristine glories.



29. BLAVATSKY GARDENS.

30. THE BANYAN TREE

If the flowers of Blavatsky Gardens are no longer quite what they must have been when the place was in the hands of wealthier owners, at least the many beautiful trees with which the house is surrounded remain as an evidence of the former condition of affairs. The grandest of these is a very fine specimen of the *ficus Indica*, or banyan tree. Now the banyan tree is like no other vegetable that grows upon the face of the earth. It has a woody stem, branching to a great height and vast extent, and it has heart-shaped leaves which terminate in acute points, not unlike those of its near relative the *ficus religiosa* or bo-tree. Its peculiarity is that every branch throws out its own roots, which are at first small tender fibres suspended in the air. They grow rapidly, however, and become thicker as they descend, and when they reach the surface of the earth they penetrate it, increase to large trunks and become in their turn parent trees. In time they shoot out new branches from the top, and these in turn suspend their roots which, swelling into trunks, produce other branches, so that eventually we have a whole wood which is in reality only one tree. These trees often grow to an enormous size, and we read of one on the banks of the River Nerbudda which will shelter seven thousand men beneath its branches, and is old enough to have been described by Nearchus, one of the admirals of Alexander the Great. Our banyan-tree does not quite equal that, but at our last Convention fully three thousand people sat under its shade and listened to the President's concluding lecture. This tree is the home of thousands of birds, reptiles and small animals; among the latter perhaps the squirrels are the most prominent. They are much smaller than the English variety, and are yellowish-grey in colour, with three black stripes down the back—pretty bright-eyed little creatures, and quite fearless and friendly. The great drawback to their friendship is that they have a horribly piercing and strident squeak, like that of a Gargantuan rat with a throat of steel. If two squirrels get excited and start an argument, human beings must either drive them away or retire from the vicinity. Of the birds we will speak on the next page.



30. THE BANYAN TREE.

31. THE TRUNK OF THE BANYAN

This photograph shows us the central trunk of the great tree. It is in reality a vast collection of trunks, many of which have grown together so that it is impossible to penetrate among them. We were referring on the previous page to the vast amount of life sustained by this giant tree. The variety of its birds is indeed remarkable; the tree seems to be a kind of world in miniature. Perhaps the most conspicuous is the crow, who is ceaselessly in evidence both to the eyes and to the ears. The name is applied here in India indifferently to two quite distinct birds. I find that the people distinguish them by calling one kind the brahman crow and the other kind the pariah. Neither of these bears any close resemblance to the English crow. The brahman variety is of the same shape and size as ours, but has a grey neck and shoulders; the pariah crow is entirely black, and considerably larger and heavier; he is, in point of fact, almost a raven. Most of the Indian birds, however, are far more beautiful than he. Constantly we see the crested hoopoe, with bright brown and white striped wings. The mynn also is always in evidence, and what Sir Edwin Arnold calls "the nine brown sisters," though in fact they are really more grey than brown—quiet little parrot-like birds that go about sociably in small groups and chatter softly and confidentially among themselves as they feed. Then there are several varieties of woodpecker, the green coppersmith with his crimson breast and forehead (though we hear him more often than we see him), the little magpie-robin with his pretty song reminding us of home, and most lovely of all, the glorious metallic-looking sun-birds, flashing in green and gold. For the occultist there is yet another type of life connected with our banyan-tree which is even more interesting than that which I have been trying to describe. In the case of a tree so vast and so old as this, the divine life manifesting through it acquires a distinct personality; and sometimes this externalises itself, and becomes clearly visible to clairvoyant sight as a cloudy human form, about twelve feet in height, with a gentle but majestic expression. This is of course a manifestation of the vegetable monad, and is quite apart from the nature-spirits who reside in and around the tree.

31. THE TRUNK OF THE BANYAN.

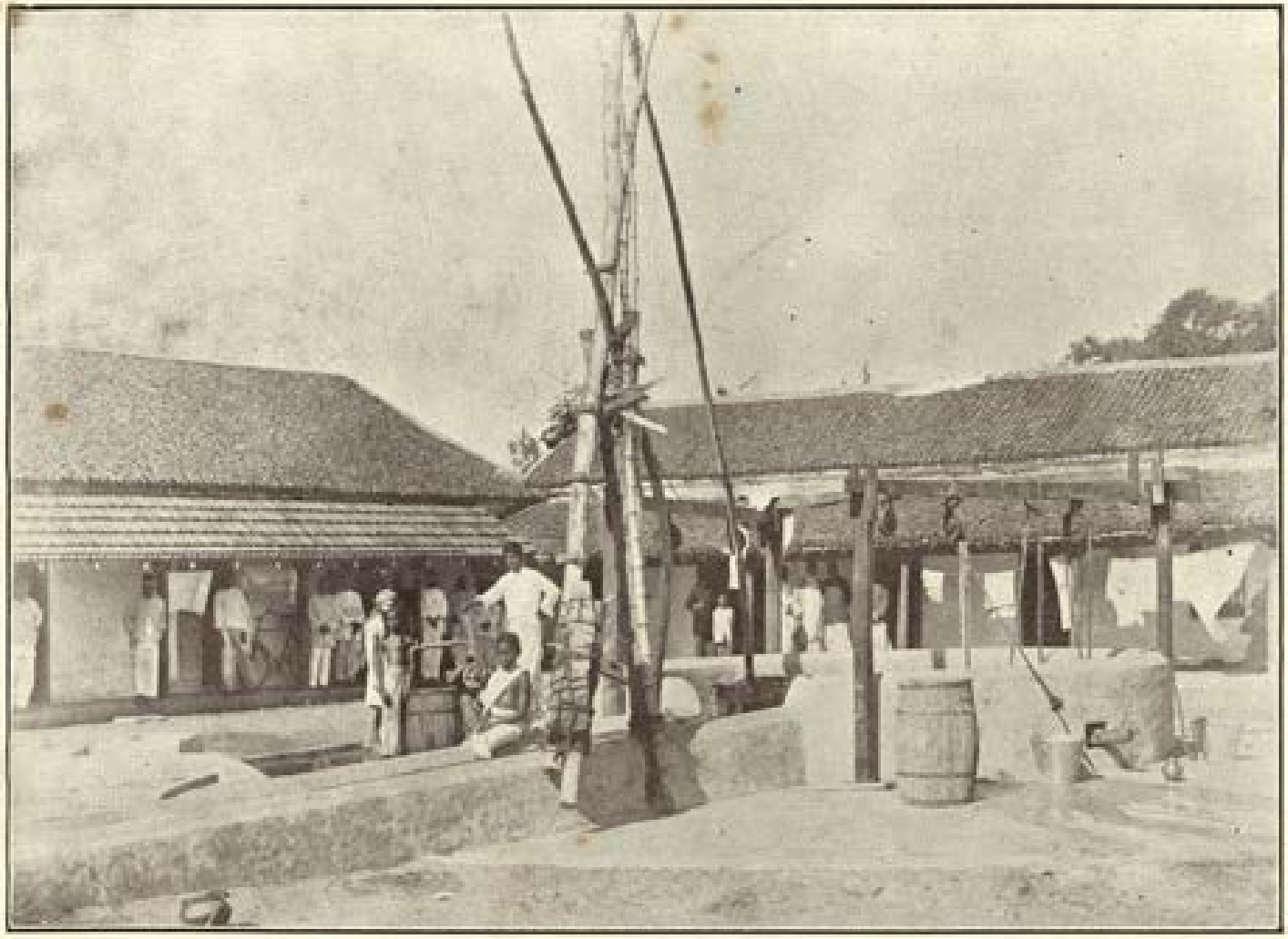
32. THE HINDU RESTAURANT

To eat his breakfast or dinner is for the Indian by no means the simple process which it is for us in Europe. It is true that in some ways he requires less in the way of paraphernalia, for he dispenses altogether with tables, table-cloths, chairs, plates, knives, spoons and forks. He usually sits on the ground and eats with his bare hands, using a piece of a banana-leaf for a plate (the banana leaf is ten to fifteen feet long by about two feet wide, so that it will cut up into a good many plates). So far the process sounds extremely simple, but in reality it is hedged round with a great deal of ceremony and with many restrictions. A man may not eat food which has been cooked by one of a lower caste, nor may the man of lower caste see him eating it; and even among members of the same caste there are many subdivisions who refuse to eat together. These customs necessitate an elaborate provision of different rooms and arrangements for cooking; so that a Hindu restaurant must be a difficult affair to manage successfully. This particular building was erected and given to the Society by the munificence of Mr. Ranga Reddi, and it provides a capital meal (much more than an ordinary man can eat) at the cost of three annas, which is 3d. in English money, six cents in America, and 30 centimes in France. It is prepared to provide food for all castes, and even for a European, who counts as of no caste at all! I understand that there are also a few bedrooms available for visitors on the first floor. There is a history connected with the pony which happens to appear in this photograph. He is of great age, and belonged to Madame Blavatsky; consequently he is pensioned off, and lives literally in clover, and it is one of the daily sights of Adyar to see the Countess Schack leading him about as she moves from place to place in the discharge of her onerous household duties. This restaurant lies to the south-west of Blavatsky Gardens, and is about three minutes' walk away from it. It has been built close to the Indian Quadrangle (which will be described on the next page), in order to suit the convenience of its residents.

32. THE HINDU RESTAURANT.

33. THE QUADRANGLE

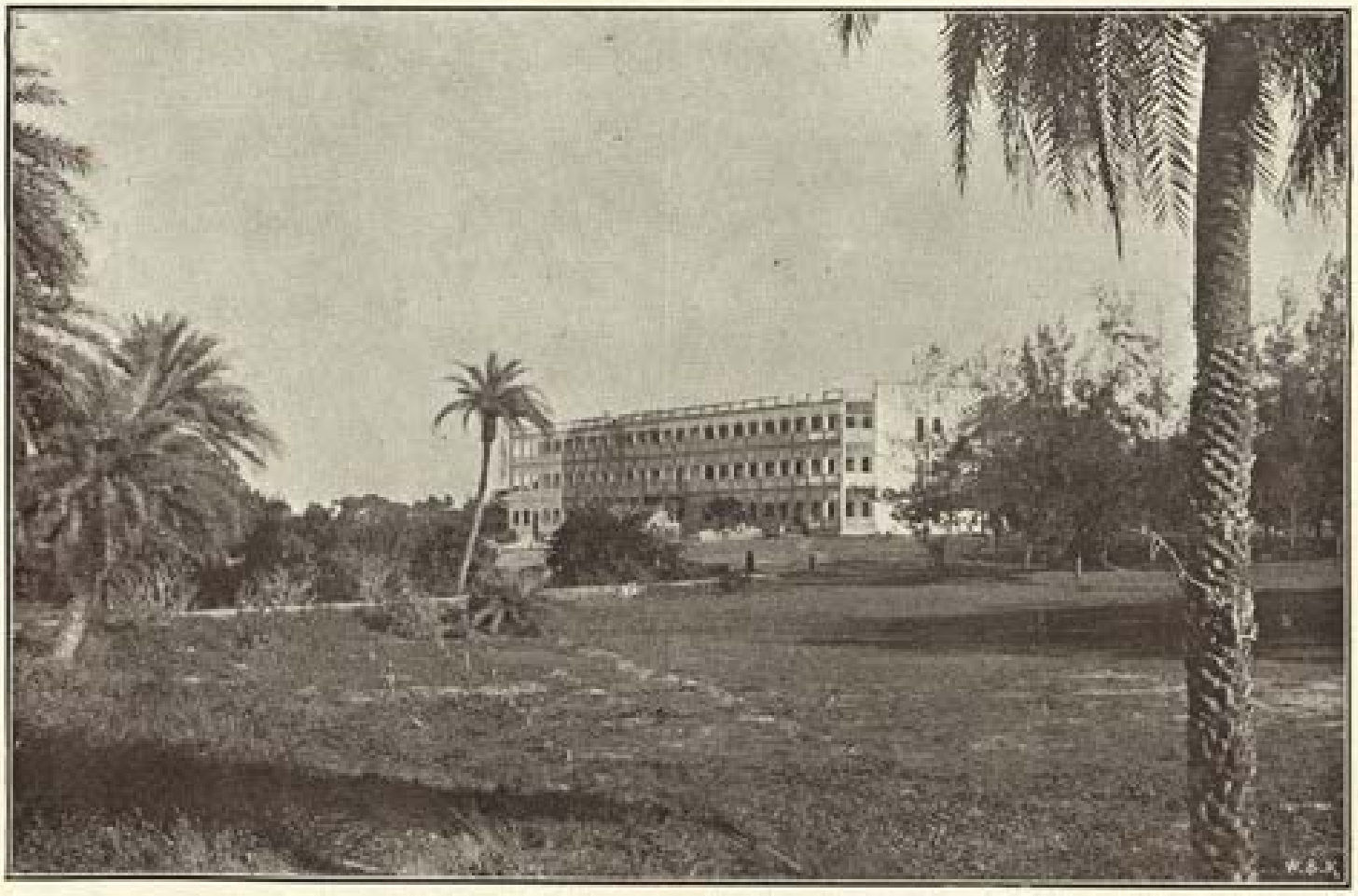
This, which is called the Indian Quadrangle, is the cheapest place of lodging on the estate. There were originally some outbuildings here, and the shape in which they happened to be arranged suggested the completion of a quadrangle by adding a number of new rooms. The old outbuildings were newly floored and whitewashed, and some bathrooms were built, and now we have here twenty-one rooms of various sizes ready for the accommodation of Indian guests. Europeans also are permitted to take rooms here if they wish, but if they desire more than the irreducible minimum of furniture they have to provide it themselves. The charge made for one of these rooms is from 9*s.* to 12*s.* a month, according to size, and for the latter amount a man gets quite a fine large room. The part shown in our illustration is the older portion, and the well in the centre is a prominent object. We have a curious instance here of the transition stage through which everything is passing, for in the centre we see an Indian brother in the very act of raising water by means of a new patent force-pump, while his other arm is almost touching the clumsy contrivance by which water has been lifted all over the East since prehistoric times—the machine which in Egypt is called the *shadoof*. A central post is erected and a huge cross beam is so attached that it can move up and down like a seesaw. One end of it is heavily weighted by tying on pieces of wood or stone (in Egypt the same result is obtained by affixing to it a huge ball of clay) and the bucket is attached to the other end. The plan is to raise the weighted end until the bucket at the other end touches the surface of the water; then by throwing additional weight on to the nearer end the bucket is raised, and emptied either into some receptacle or into a channel at a higher level. The custom here in India is for two or three men to stand upon the cross-beam at its point of junction with the upright; then, by stepping to one side of the upright or the other, they raise or depress with the minimum of trouble whichever end they wish. The whole of this estate was watered in this way until the pumping-engines were introduced.



33. THE QUADRANGLE.

34. THE CHAMBERS FROM THE PARK

If we return from the Indian Quadrangle to our path to the sea, passing Blavatsky Gardens on the way, we shall rejoin the path just about at the spot where the following view opens before us. The large building which occupies the centre of the view is the newly erected suite of Chambers to which the President has been kind enough to give my name. As may be seen by a close inspection, it was still unfinished when this photograph was taken, though as I write these words a few days later it is practically complete, and the furniture is being moved in. It will, however, take some considerable time to remove the traces of the building work, and to bring into order the grounds which surround it. Though from this point of view it has quite the appearance of being embowered in trees, it is really on the edge of the park belonging to Blavatsky Gardens, and the large tract of ground which extends on the other side towards the east and south is at present barren-looking and devoid of trees, though as soon as our irrigation arrangements are perfect we hope to bring it under cultivation. The Chambers are healthily situated, upon a slight rise in the ground, and they lie open to every breeze that blows, especially to the two monsoons. The building, which is 220 feet in length, contains twenty-eight suites of rooms, each one consisting of sitting-room (18 feet by 16), bedroom and bathroom, and there is a large dining room on the ground floor. The place is built especially for serious students, and the suites of rooms are entirely shut off one from the other. The suites are arranged in pairs with a staircase between them, so that one avoids the annoyance of people constantly passing one's windows either in front or behind. A broad veranda runs along each floor both at the front and at the rear. The rent of a suite of rooms is at the rate of 10*s.* a week, and they are let only to members of at least three years' standing in the Society. In all cases it is absolutely necessary that the written permission of the President should be obtained, and in case of members not personally known to her a recommendation from the General Secretary of their Section is required. European food can be obtained at 1*s.* per day, and Indian food at 6*d.* From the front veranda there is a wide view over the river and sea.



34. THE CHAMBERS FROM THE PARK.

35. THE CHAMBERS FROM THE RIVER

In order to give a still clearer idea of this, our latest building, Alcyone has taken the trouble to cross to a little low wooded island and obtain a photograph of the Chambers from that position also. This was evidently taken a few days earlier than the other, as may be seen from the stage of its advancement. It may perhaps be interesting to mention that the little island from which this view was taken is an especial haunt of nature-spirits. Many a time Alcyone and I have stood and watched them at their play for several minutes together, on our way back from our daily swim in the sea. The presence of a crowd of workmen has for the time being driven them away; but perhaps when the students take possession they may condescend to return. In the foreground of this photograph are seen two boats, a small one and a large one, and the curious thing about them is that they are both constructed of exactly the same material as the Chambers! It is called reinforced concrete, which means in the case of the boats that they are built of crushed granite and cement moulded on to a foundation of latticed iron-work. One would hardly expect a boat made of such materials to float at all; but it does, and it is capable of carrying considerable loads, and is cheaper than either steel or wood. I believe that the industry is well known in America, but the first cement boat ever constructed in India was built last year on the Theosophical Society's estate by the same contractor who has just finished the Chambers. The roofs and floors of the Chambers seem to be constructed in the same way as the boats; but the pillars and cement girders consist each of four thin iron rods with cement and crushed granite packed between and round them. These cement girders have been very carefully tested by a weight much greater than any they can ever be called upon to sustain, and have been found entirely satisfactory. This system of building, closely allied to one frequently adopted by the ancient Romans, is expected to prove especially suitable to India, as it is absolutely damp-proof; and we hope that even the omnivorous white ant will turn away disgusted when he finds himself confronted by a solid mass of powdered granite. The Society owes this magnificent building to the munificence of Mr. C. R. Harvey, of London.

109634

35. THE CHAMBERS FROM THE RIVER.

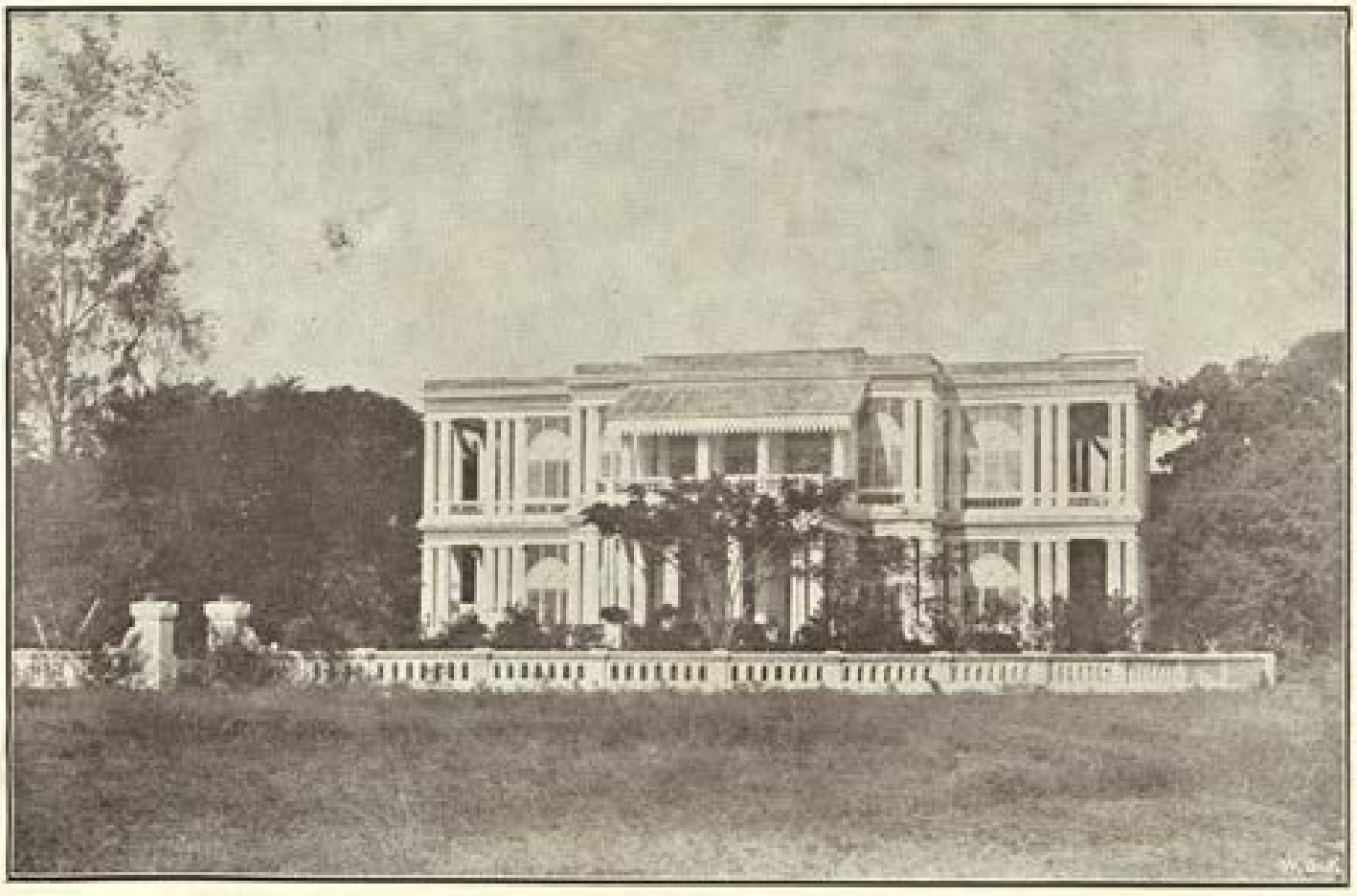
36. THE RUIN

If we continue on our path to the sea, skirting along the river-bank until we have passed the large barren tract beyond the Chambers, we come presently to the border of the Blavatsky Gardens estate, and enter upon a smaller one which is now called Besant Grove. It was only last year that this was bought and presented to the Society by its present Recording Secretary, Mr. J. R. Aria. It consists of a wedge of land some twenty acres in extent, having both sea and river frontage. Twenty-seven years ago there stood upon it a handsome maisonette called Brunton Villa; but it remained untenanted for many years and fell gradually into decay. Then in one season, when there was an exceptionally heavy rainfall, the river undermined the bluff upon which it was built, and more than half the building fell into the water. Only the picturesque ruin which is shown in our illustration now remains to mark its site. The rectangle which is still visible is all that remains of one of its two rooms. It will be noticed that, immediately to our left of it, the ground falls away abruptly. When I first saw it, there was to the left of the present ruin another room of similar shape and size; and outside both these was a wide veranda extending all round the cottage, and rising at each corner into a sort of little circular summer-house from which one could enjoy the beautiful view over the sea and the river. Yet again, outside this veranda swept a broad embanked carriage-drive; but now the carriage-drive, the veranda and half of the house have disappeared into the waters of the Adyar, leaving only a few projecting crags of masonry to show where once they stood. It was a delightful little house, and it was the greatest of pities to let it be swept away in this fashion, when it could so easily have been saved by the erection of a dam to deflect the current. This has now been done, but the ruin is too far gone for any attempt at reconstruction. The rest of the Besant Grove estate is mainly covered with casuarina-trees, and the place is consequently haunted by a special type of nature-spirit which seems always to be attracted to trees of this particular order. Only a few yards on the other side of the ruin the sea-beach begins, and this is the spot which members of the Headquarters staff usually select for their daily dip in the Bay.

36. THE RUIN.

37. OLCOTT GARDENS

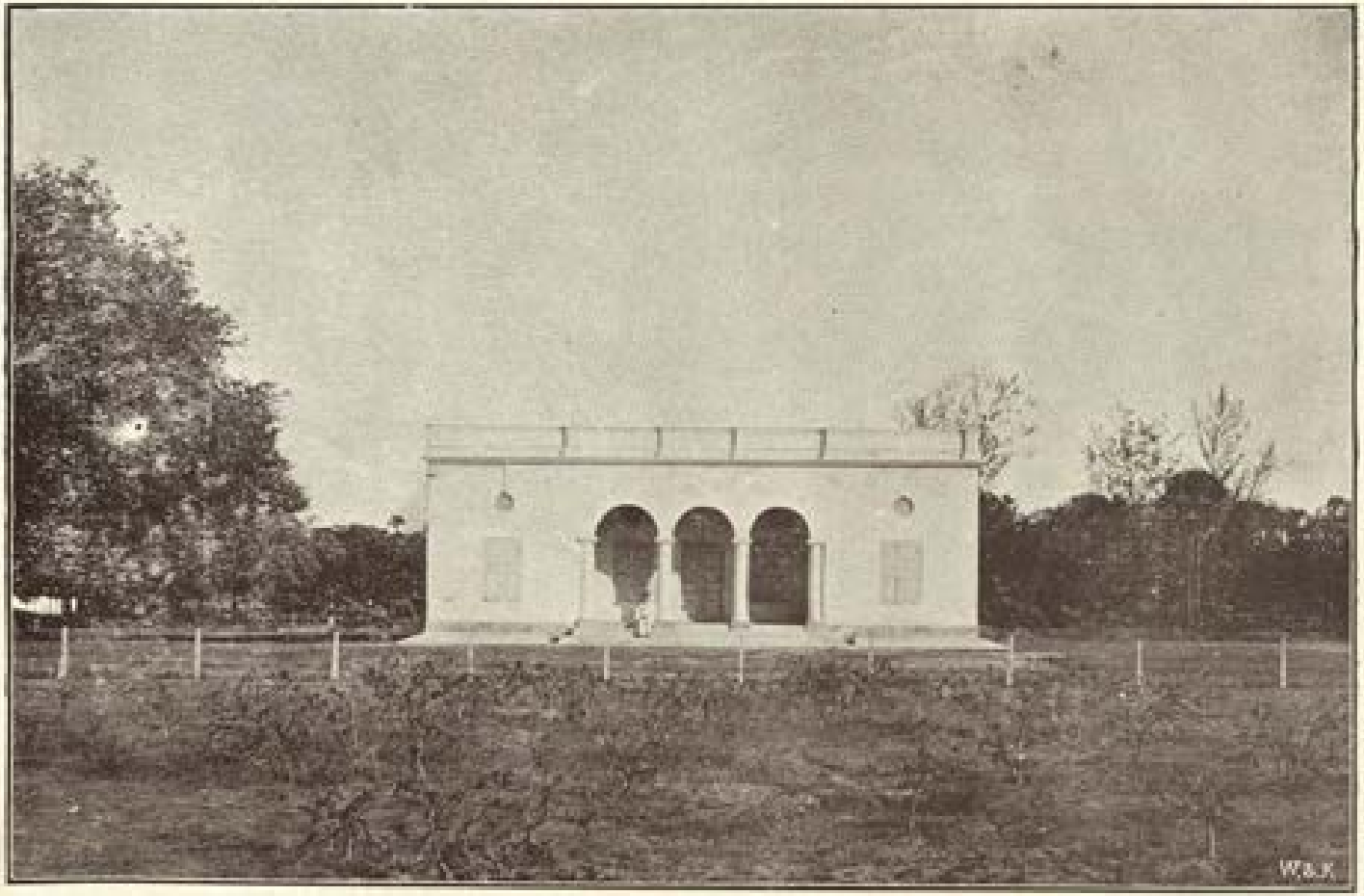
This is another fine specimen of the Anglo-Indian residence, and as it has been during the last few years under the special care of our Treasurer, Mr. Schwarz (who presented it to the Society, and has greatly improved it), it has been kept in much better order than most of the others. Its rooms are spacious and delightfully airy, and there is a fine wide veranda on the first floor which has probably the best view on the estate, for it looks straight out over the Bay of Bengal, which is not more than a furlong away. Mr. Schwarz himself occupies the upper floor, while Dr. Schrader lives below. Miss Kofel also, whose work in connection with the pariah schools is so well known, used to have a room here, but has now built for herself a separate cottage close by. Our President-Founder was very deeply interested in the question of the education of the neglected pariah class; it was he who first set on foot this little attempt to deal with the problem, and it is being carried on in commemoration of him. According to the last report there are now five of these schools, in which free education is given to 757 pupils, who would certainly otherwise receive no education at all. Some boys who have passed through these schools are already doing well, and the outcome of the effort clearly shows that with proper treatment the depressed classes may easily be raised into self-respecting and self-reliant members of society. It will be noticed that in front of the house a circular railing encloses a handsome garden; in the centre of that garden stands a bust of Colonel Olcott upon a pedestal, facing towards the house. It is not easily distinguishable in our illustration, because it happens to come in line with a group of white pillars; but those who have keen eyes may be able to discover it just in front of the third pillar from the left. Olcott Gardens is about half a mile from the ruin of Brunton Villa—a long half-mile of heavy walking over the sand of the sea-shore; for here in India there are conditions in which, under a blazing noon-day sun, a walk of half a mile through deep sand may seem quite a formidable undertaking. In order to get a clear idea of the relative position of all these houses the reader should examine the map given at the end of the book; it is impossible to explain it satisfactorily by mere description.



37. OLCOTT GARDENS.

38. THE MASONIC TEMPLE

This little temple was built (largely by the beneficence of Mr. Schwarz) for The Rising Sun of India Lodge of the Co-Masonic Order, a variant of Freemasonry which admits women to its ranks as well as men. The building is much larger than it appears in the photograph, as it has an extension behind in the shape of the letter T. In addition to the ordinary equipment of a Masonic Lodge there are to be seen in this room certain inscriptions which are of great interest to Theosophical students. Over the door as one enters are the words: "Seek for the Light;" over the chair of the Master in the east are the words: "Look for the Light," while in the west is the inscription: "Follow the Light." These three formulæ are taken from the ritual of an ancient Egyptian initiation. "Look for the Light" was the motto of the King, exhorting him to see the divine in every man, and to try to help him through that. "Seek for the Light" was intended for the eager student, urging him never to turn aside until the final illumination was attained; while "Follow the Light" was addressed by the King to his people, and put before them the duty of recognising the authority of those who knew more than they, and were charged with the office of bearing the light of truth through the world. On the last Saturday of every month an evening meeting is held in this Lodge room; and perhaps to the artistic eye the scene outside is almost as impressive as the ceremony within; for a group of white-robed servants wait with lanterns until their masters come forth, and then a long line of swaying lights is seen making its way through the soft mysterious darkness. It may be of interest to add that the corner-stone of the Chambers was "well and truly laid" with full masonic rites by the R. W. M. of this Lodge on March 17, 1910. The long procession on that occasion was a striking sight, consisting as it did of Masons of all grades from the 33° to the E. A. After the stone was lowered corn and salt were scattered, oil was poured and finally the fire was laid upon the stone, the Very Illustrious Brother uttering each time the appropriate impressive invocation.



38. THE MASONIC TEMPLE.

39. THE POWER-HOUSE

If we walk for about five minutes in a westerly direction from the Masonic Temple, we see the new power-house within a few yards of the road. The building has just been completed, and is a handsome structure of reinforced concrete, square in shape, with an outside measurement of forty feet, and divided into two rooms. The engine-room is the larger of the two, and contains a fine 52 horse-power suction gas engine and a 10 horse-power oil-engine, each driving their respective dynamos by means of belts. The smaller engine will only be used in cases of emergency, when something has happened to its more powerful companion. In the smaller room are placed the storage battery or accumulators, consisting of about 120 cells. The large dynamo will supply a current at a pressure of 225 volts, sufficient to charge this battery, or to run seven hydro-electric pumps and the printing plant. At night the engine will be stopped, and the steady current from the storage battery will be sent through the wires to the six hundred lights scattered about the estate. This current is conveyed to the various buildings and pumps by aluminium and copper wires suspended on either iron or reinforced concrete poles—which latter, by the way, are the newest thing in their line. At the moment of writing this description a number of men are engaged in installing the heavy engine. Its fly-wheel alone weighs six tons, and it was a difficult feat to get it over the sand which lies between the road and the power-house.

39. THE POWER HOUSE.

40. BESANT GARDENS

This house is one of the recent acquisitions of the Society. It looks different from all the others, because its verandas are somewhat less open; instead of being upheld merely by pillars, their roofs are supported by walls pierced by arches. For the last two years the lower floor has been occupied by Lieutenant and Mrs. Ruspoli, and the upper storey during each winter by Mr. and Mrs. Kirby, who are unfortunately not yet able to spend the entire year with us. The whole of this estate is under careful cultivation, but the soil is poor, and it will be some years yet before it pays a reasonable interest on the amount of its cost. A tank and four large wells are used for irrigation, and we have 1,500 young cocoa-nut palms, 150 mango-trees bearing fruit and the same number of young trees grafted. We grow egg-plant, bananas, snake-gourds, ladies' fingers, drumstick and other Indian vegetables; and there are also twenty thousand casuarina-trees. The casuarina is a species of pine, feathery and beautiful, and while it is growing it makes a pleasant addition to the landscape; but as it is useful only for its timber, there comes a time when it has to be cut down, and then it leaves a terrible gap behind it. On this Besant Gardens estate a novel experiment is being tried. As the headquarters population consumes a large amount of milk daily, the President has thought that it would be well for us to have a dairy of our own; so thirty cows are kept at Besant Gardens (only half of them, however, giving milk at once) and in this way plenty of really good milk is supplied to the entire establishment, and butter also to a considerable part of it. An effort is just being made to establish a bakery, and no doubt in time the estate will become almost entirely self-supporting. All those who come here are vegetarians, and there is therefore no reason why we should not presently succeed in growing everything that is required for the table, with the exception of a few luxuries which need a colder climate, and must therefore be imported from the hills. On the Besant Gardens estate lucerne has also been tried, and is found to grow without difficulty.

40. BESANT GARDENS.

41. DAMODAR GARDENS

We are, I think, peculiarly fortunate in the houses which we have on various parts of the Theosophical estate. The Headquarters building was in the beginning an ordinary sort of house, with nothing especial to recommend it. Blavatsky Gardens, however, is a far handsomer structure; and, as we have already seen, Olcott Gardens also has certain particular points of recommendation. But perhaps of all our houses this which we see in the following illustration is the finest. Before it came into our possession it had been in the occupation of a Muhammadan family, and when it was handed over to us it was unspeakably filthy. A very thorough purification and renovation was necessary, and when that was done Mr. Schwarz took it in hand, and has spent over £1,000 in improving it, with the result which is shown in our picture. It has now a veranda on a really magnificent scale, and affords quite palatial accommodation. The view from its roof is a fine one, and gives one the impression of being away in the heart of the country, far out of reach of any town. The sea is visible, though only in the distance. The soil of this estate is of much better quality than that of Besant Gardens; indeed, I understand that good results have been obtained by mingling the heavy clay of Damodar Gardens with the too-abundant sand of the neighbouring estate. We have here one large tank and three wells, and we have been able to grow a large quantity of rice—or rather paddy, as the staple of India is called when it is growing, for it is spoken of as rice only when it is husked and ready for the market. There are also here a hundred mango-trees and a considerable plantation of the cashew, a spreading tree of no great height, upon which grows a kidney-shaped nut at the end of a pear-shaped fleshy fruit, the kernel of this nut and the fleshy fruit (called the cashew-apple) being both used as food. The fruit contains an acid juice, out of which a drink is made; and between the shell of the nut and the kernel is a curious caustic oil which makes an indelible mark or stain upon cloth. The appearance of the nut hanging *outside* the fruit is most curious; but the kernel has a pleasant taste.

41. DAMODAR GARDENS.

42. THE FISHERMAN

Needless to say, this photograph is not to be taken as illustrating any part of the life or activities connected with the Theosophical Headquarters; but nevertheless it is one of the commonest sights that meet our eyes when we glance out over the river. This is a man of the fisherman caste, in pursuit of his daily avocation; and Alcyone has very cleverly contrived to catch him at the very moment when he was throwing his net. A figure so characteristic of Indian life merits a few moments' attention. First notice the craft upon which the man is standing—a mere log of wood, or rather two or three logs bound together. This is called a catamaran, and is propelled by means of a pole just as a punt is. The preservation of balance in this peculiar kind of punting is a matter which requires great practice; I myself have tried it (in a bathing dress, *bien entendu*) on several occasions, but the first energetic push invariably dropped me ignominiously into the water with a mighty splash. The fisherman, however, poles his tiny craft about the river with the utmost unconcern, and I have never seen one come to grief. They even take these crazy logs a considerable distance out into the breakers, though I notice that then they sit upon them and paddle instead of trying to pole. The man, as we may observe, is naked except for a rag round his loins and another rag twisted round his head as a turban. The net which he throws is circular when expanded, and to expand it properly requires a deft sweep of the arm which cannot be acquired without great and long continued practice. Though the photograph does not show it, a thin line extends from his outstretched hand to the apex of the net, and he draws it back by this when the cast has been made. The outer edge of the net is weighted with pieces of lead, so that it sinks first, and the theory seems to be that the fish, being frightened by its fall, should dart inwards and upwards, and find himself entangled in the net as it closes together. It seems, however, that the fish not infrequently declines to oblige, for I have watched these men throwing their nets hundreds of times, and I never yet saw any one of them catch anything, except perhaps one or two tiny crabs. Sometimes a number of them work together with a large net, and then they make many captures.

42. A FISHERMAN.

43. MADAME BLAVATSKY

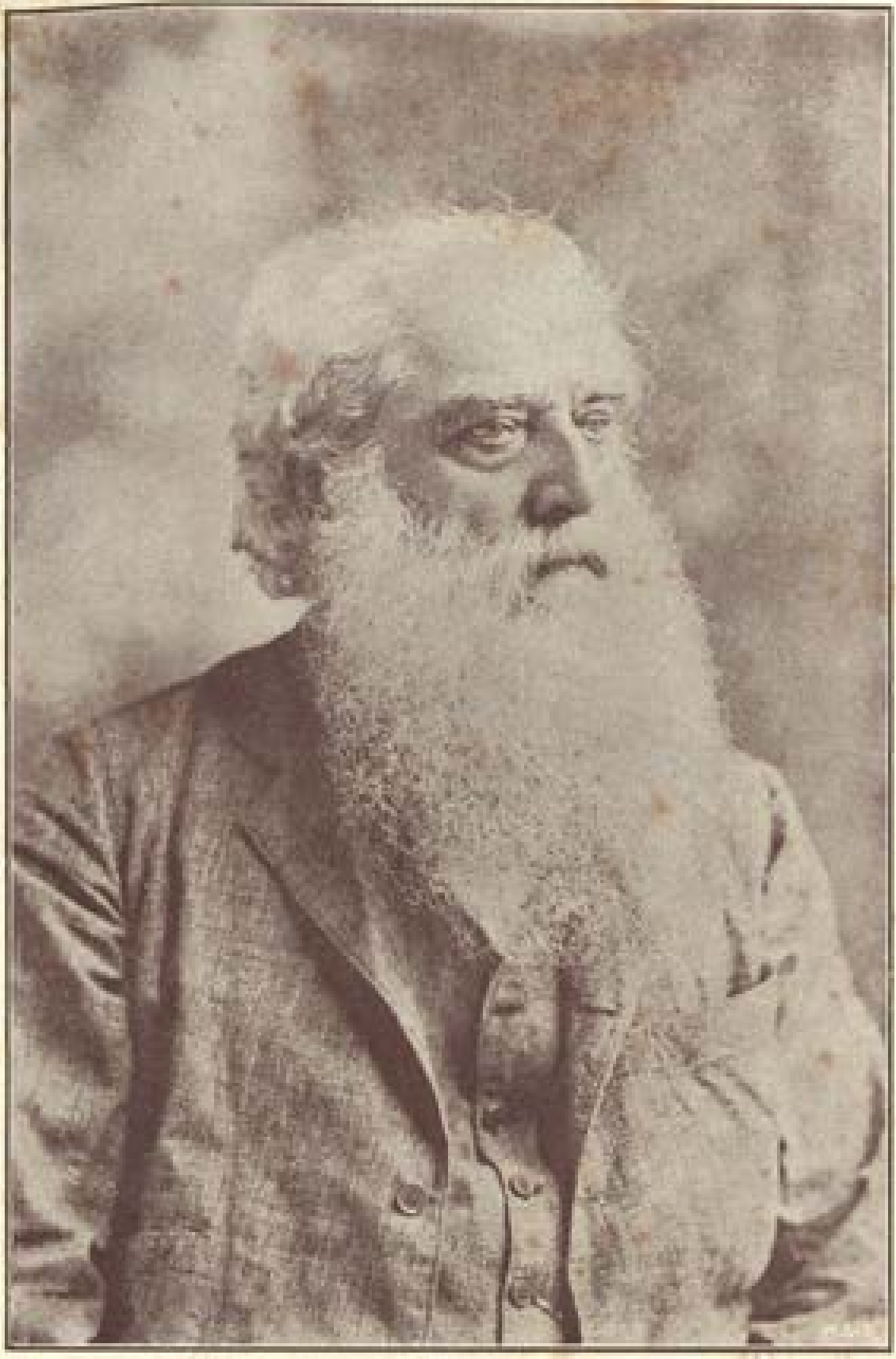
"Many a year must pass ere Helena Petrovna Blavatsky will be seen in her true greatness. We are too near her to behold her as she is, and the modern world, like that of the Hebrews, ever stones the modern prophet. Our children will build her sepulchre in the intervals between their stonings of the prophets of their day, and on her memorial stone will be engraven the gratitude which posterity will feel to the lion heart which braved the insults of a world, to the stainless Truth which flinched not when error was throned in the high places, to the perfect Fidelity which wrought only for the Master's service, and consecrated spirit, soul and body to the mission which He gave."

A. B.

43. MADAME BLAVATSKY.

44. COLONEL OLCOTT

Henry Steele Olcott shared with Madame Blavatsky the honour of founding the Society; and if through her came the teaching, the spreading of which was the object of its existence, it was his administrative ability which made that existence possible, his hand which steered the Theosophical ship over many a stormy sea and through many a difficult passage. He was prepared for this position not only by the special work of the earlier years of this life, but also by previous incarnations in which he had held positions curiously parallel—always connected with the preaching of a great religion, yet never himself the preacher, but the administrative officer whose work made the teaching possible. Soon he will come again to carry on to greater heights the work which he has so well begun, and those who laboured under him this time may well have the opportunity of serving with him then, if they but take to heart the lesson of his life—the lesson of unswerving loyalty and whole-souled devotion to the great cause which was always for him the one thing to which all else must yield, for which he stood ever ready to sacrifice ease and comfort, and even life itself. Faithful unto death in this life as in that other lived so long ago, he stands before us as an exemplar of courage, loyalty and unselfishness. For the great Masters he lived, he lives and he will live; when once more he raises Their banner, may we have strength to follow him as he has followed Them!



44. COLONEL OLCOTT.

45. MRS. BESANT

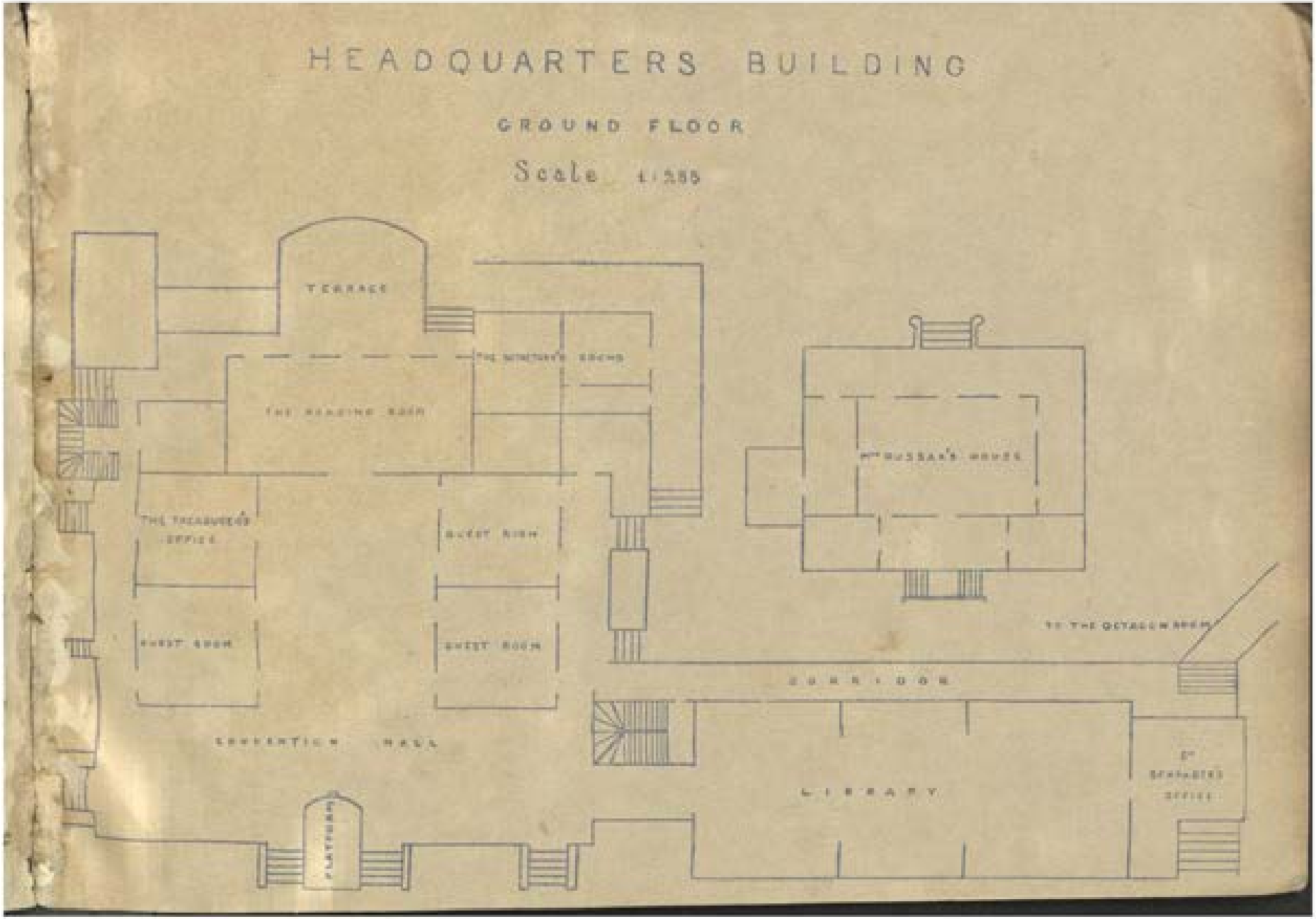
What can I say to you of your President that you do not know already? Her colossal intellect, her unfailing wisdom, her unrivalled eloquence, her splendid forgetfulness of self, her untiring devotion to work for others—all these are familiar to you. Yet these qualities, these powers, are but a small part of her greatness; they are on the surface; they may be seen by all; they leap to the eyes. But there are other qualities, other powers of which you cannot know, because they pertain to the secrets of Initiation. She is a pupil of our Masters; from the fount of Their archaic wisdom she derives her own; the plans which she is carrying out are Their plans for the welfare of the world. Think therefore how great an honour it is for you that you should be permitted to work under her, for in doing so you are virtually working under Them. Think how watchful you should be to miss no hint which falls from her lips, to carry out exactly whatever instructions she may give you. Remember that because of her position as an Initiate she knows far more than you do; and precisely because her knowledge is occult, given under the seal of Initiation, she cannot share it with you. Therefore, her actions must constantly be governed by considerations of which you have no conception. There will be times when you cannot understand her motives, for she is taking into account many things which you cannot see, and of which she must not tell you. But whether you understand or not, you will be wise to follow her implicitly, just because she knows. This is no mere supposition on my part, no flight of the imagination; I have stood beside your President in the presence of the Supreme Director of evolution on this globe, and I know whereof I speak. Let the wise hear my words, and act accordingly.

45. Mrs. BESANT.

HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

GROUND FLOOR

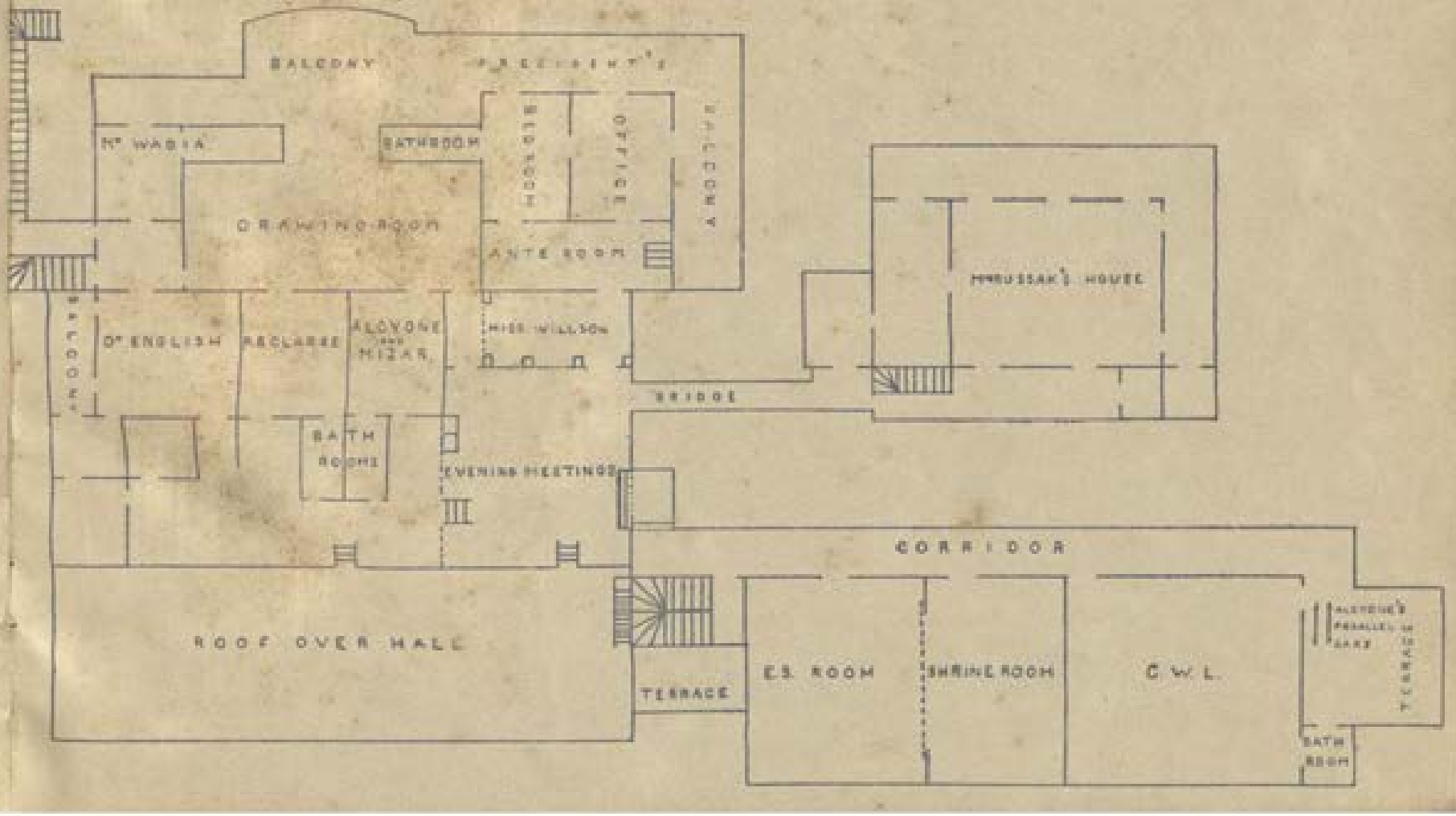
Scale 1:288



HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

FIRST FLOOR

Scale 1:288



THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

THERE IS NO RELIGION HIGHER THAN TRUTH

President: ANNIE BESANT. *Vice-President*: SIR S. SUBRAMANIA IYER, K.C.I.E. *Recording Secretary*: J. R. ARIA. *Treasurer*: A. SCHWARZ.

The Theosophical Society was formed at New York, November 17th, 1875, and incorporated at Madras, April 3rd, 1905. It is an absolutely unsectarian body of seekers after Truth, striving to serve humanity on spiritual lines, and therefore endeavouring to check materialism and revive religious tendency. Its three declared objects are:

To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.

To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science.

To investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man.

Enquiries may be addressed to the Recording Secretary, Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras, S., India, or to any one of the following General Secretaries or Presidential Agents:

General Secretaries:

1. AMERICA—Dr. Weller van Hook, 31 N. State Street, Chicago.
2. GREAT BRITAIN—Mrs. Sharpe, 106 New Bond Street, London, W.
3. INDIA—Mr. Jehangir Sorabji, Benares City, U. P.
4. AUSTRALASIA—Mr. W. G. John, 132 Phillip Street, Sydney, N. S. W.
5. SCANDINAVIA—Lieut.-Col. Gustaf Kinell, Engelbrechtsgatan 7, Stockholm, Sweden.
6. NEW ZEALAND—Dr. C. W. Sanders, 351 Queen Street, Auckland.
7. NETHERLANDS—Mr. Cnoop-Koopman, Amsteldijk 76, Amsterdam.
8. FRANCE—M. Charles Blech, 59 Avenue de la Bourdonnais, Paris.
9. ITALY—Prof. O. Penzig, 1 Corso Dogali, Genoa.
10. GERMANY—Dr. Rudolf Steiner, 17 Motzstrasse, Berlin, W.

11. CUBA—Mr. R. de Albear, Apartado 365, Havana.
12. HUNGARY—Prof. Robert Nadler, VI Andrassy-ret. 70, Budapest.
13. FINLAND—Mr. Pekka Ervast, Aggelby, Finland.
14. RUSSIA—Madame Kamensky, Ivanovskaya 22, Petersburg.
15. BOHEMIA—Herr Jan Bedrnicek, Kr-Vinohrody Cernákova ul 4/III, Prague.
16. SOUTH AFRICA—Mr. C. E. Nelson, P. O. Box 1012, Johannesburg, Transvaal.
17. SCOTLAND—Mr. D. Graham Pole, 130 George Street, Edinburgh.
18. SWITZERLAND—Mlle. H. Stephani, Cour S. Pierre, Geneva.

Presidential Agents in Non-Sectionalised countries.

SOUTH AMERICA—Commandant F. Fernandez, 2927 Calle Cordoba, Buenos Aires.

SPAIN—Señor Don José Xifré, 4 rue Aumount-Thieville, Paris XVII.

Ireland—Mr. James H. Cousins, 35 Strand Road, Sandymount, Dublin.

The Theosophical Society is composed of students, belonging to any religion in the world or to none, who are united by their approval of the above objects, by their wish to remove religious antagonisms, and to draw together men of good-will, whatsoever their religious opinions, and by their desire to study religious truths and to share the results of their studies with others. Their bond of union is not the profession of a common belief, but a common search and aspiration for Truth. They hold that Truth should be sought by study, by reflexion, by purity of life, by devotion to high ideals, and they regard Truth as a prize to be striven for, not as a dogma to be imposed by authority. They consider that belief should be the result of individual study or intuition and not its antecedent, and should rest on knowledge, not on assertion. They extend tolerance to all, even to the intolerant, not as a privilege they bestow, but as a duty they perform, and they seek to remove ignorance, not to punish it. They see every religion as an expression of the DIVINE WISDOM, and prefer its study to its condemnation, and its practice to proselytism. Peace is their watchword, as Truth is their aim.

Theosophy is the body of truths which forms the basis of all religions, and which cannot be claimed as the exclusive possession of any. It offers a philosophy which renders life intelligible, and which demonstrates the justice and the love which guide evolution. It puts death in its rightful place as a recurring incident in an endless life, opening the gateway of a fuller and more radiant existence. It restores to the world the

Science of the Spirit, teaching man to know the Spirit as himself, and the mind and body as his servants. It illuminates the Scriptures and doctrines of religions by unveiling their hidden meanings, and thus justifying them at the bar of intelligence, as they are ever justified in the eyes of intuition.

Members of the Theosophical Society study these truths, and Theosophists endeavour to live them. Every one willing to study, to be tolerant, to aim high, and to work perseveringly, is welcomed as a member, and it rests with the member to become a true Theosophist.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR STUDY

	Rs.	A.	S.	D.	$.	C.
An Outline of Theosophy. C. W. Leadbeater	0	12	1	0	0	25
Popular Lectures on Theosophy. Annie Besant	1	0	2	0	0	50
First Steps in Theosophy. Ethel Mallet	1	8	2	0	0	75
Theosophy for Beginners. C. W. Christie	1	2	1	6	0	50
Ancient Wisdom. Annie Besant	3	12	5	0	1	50
The Occult World. A. P. Sinnett	1	14	2	6	...	
Esoteric Buddhism Do.	1	14	2	6	...	
The Growth of the Soul. Do.	3	12	5	0	1	50
The Astral Plane. C. W. Leadbeater	0	12	1	0	0	35
The Devachanic Plane Do.	0	12	1	0	0	35
Man and His Bodies Annie Besant	0	12	1	0	0	35
Karma Do.	0	12	1	0	0	35
Theosophy and the New Psychology Do.	1	8	2	0	0	75
Thought-Power, Its Control and Culture Do.	1	2	1	6	0	75
Some Problems of Life Do.	1	2	1	6	0	75
The Changing World Do.	2	4	3	6	1	00
London Lectures of 1907 Do.	1	8	2	0	0	75
The Inner Life. Vol. I. C. W. Leadbeater	3	0	6	0	1	50
The Inner Life. Vol. II. Do.			(In the Press)			
The Other Side of Death. Do.	4	8	6	0	1	50

	Rs.	A.	S.	D.	$	C.
Some Glimpses of Occultism. C. W. Leadbeater	4	12	6	0	1	50
Invisible Helpers Do.	1	2	1	6	0	50
Clairvoyance Do.	1	8	2	0	0	75
Dreams Do.	1	2	1	6	0	50
Man Visible and Invisible Do.	7	14	10	6	2	50
Thought-Forms. Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater	7	14	10	6	3	50
Occult Chemistry. Do. Do.	3	12	5	0	2	00

WORLD RELIGIONS

Universal Text Book of Religion and Morals. Annie Besant Parts I & II, each	1	0	1	6	0	40
Four Great Religions ... ... Do.	1	8	2	0	0	75
Religious Problems in India ... ... Do.	1	4	2	0	0	50
Esoteric Christianity ... ... Do.	3	12	5	0	1	50
The Christian Creed. C. W. Leadbeater	2	10	3	6	1	25
A Buddhist Catechism. H. S. Olcott	0	12	1	4	...	
Buddhist Popular Lectures. Annie Besant	1	0	2	0	0	75
A Text Book of Hindu Religion and Ethics. Elementary	0	12	2	6	...	
Do. Do. Advanced	1	8	4	0	1	25
The Wisdom of the Upanishads. Annie Besant	1	4	2	0	0	75
Hints on the Study of the Bhagavad-Gita Do.	1	4	2	0	0	75

ETHICAL

The Bhagavad-Gita, translated by Annie Besant	1	2	1	6	0	50
Light on the Path	0	12	1	0	0	25
At the Feet of the Master. Alcyone	1	0	1	6	0	50
The Voice of the Silence. H. P. Blavatsky	1	2	1	6	0	50
In the Outer Court. Annie Besant	1	0	2	0	0	75

	Rs. A.	s. d.	s. c.
The Path of Discipleship. Annie Besant	0 15	2 0	0 75
The Three Paths and Dharma. Do.	1 8	2 0	0 75
After these may be read,			
The Secret Doctrine, by H. P. Blavatsky			
(3 Volumes and Index)	45 0	60 0	17 50

THE THEOSOPHIST

(Royal 8vo—160 Pages Monthly) is an Illustrated Magazine

Edited by ANNIE BESANT,

Annual Subscription Rs. 8. 12s. $3. Post Free.

At the Feet of the Master

By ALCYONE

Second Edition (with the new Portrait and the Signature of the Author)

Price Re. 1 cloth; paper 6 Annas

Written down by the young Disciple of the Master K. H. for the use of aspirants

Companion Volume to *Light on the Path* and *The Voice of the Silence*

The THEOSOPHIST Office, Adyar, Madras, India

THE VASANTA PRESS, ADYAR.

00109634

Digitized with financial assistance from the
Observer Research Foundation
on 25 April 2019